



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

Office of Hazardous
Materials Safety

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM PILOT PROGRAM

*Advancing PHMSA's
safety mission*



Contact

Rick Raksnis, Director Field Services Support
HM_Accident_Investigation@dot.gov

BACKGROUND

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) mission is protecting people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and hazardous materials. The Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS) Field Operations division has a critical role in the PHMSA mission by ensuring compliance with federal Hazardous Materials Regulations. However, compliance and enforcement efforts alone do not address the underlying causes of severe hazardous materials accidents.

PURPOSE

In October 2017, OHMS launched a one-year Accident Investigation Team (AIT) Pilot Program to supplement the safety mission. The purpose of the AIT is uncovering and analyzing the series of events, including probable and root causes, that lead to severe accidents. The AIT will examine and provide recommendations on the feasibility and viability of a long-term, robust OHMS accident investigation program.

OBJECTIVES

The AIT is committed to the following objectives:

- Improving accuracy & relevance of PHMSA data collection efforts through root cause analysis
- Identifying emerging risks & recommending agency action (outreach & engagement, rulemaking, etc)
- Enhancing risk-analysis through data-driven, innovative tracking of emerging trends and near misses
- Sharing accident data recommendations & lessons learned with internal & external stakeholders, including DOT modal partners

BENEFITS

The AIT Pilot Program will yield numerous benefits including:

- Advancing quality of investigations by strengthening full-time investigator expertise through comprehensive root cause analysis training
- Determining robust standardized processes to improve data collection, analysis & validation
- Strengthening stakeholder outreach efforts & partnerships (OHMS, DOT modal partners, external stakeholders)