



Global Developments – Key Issues Affecting Accident Investigators

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31st May 2025



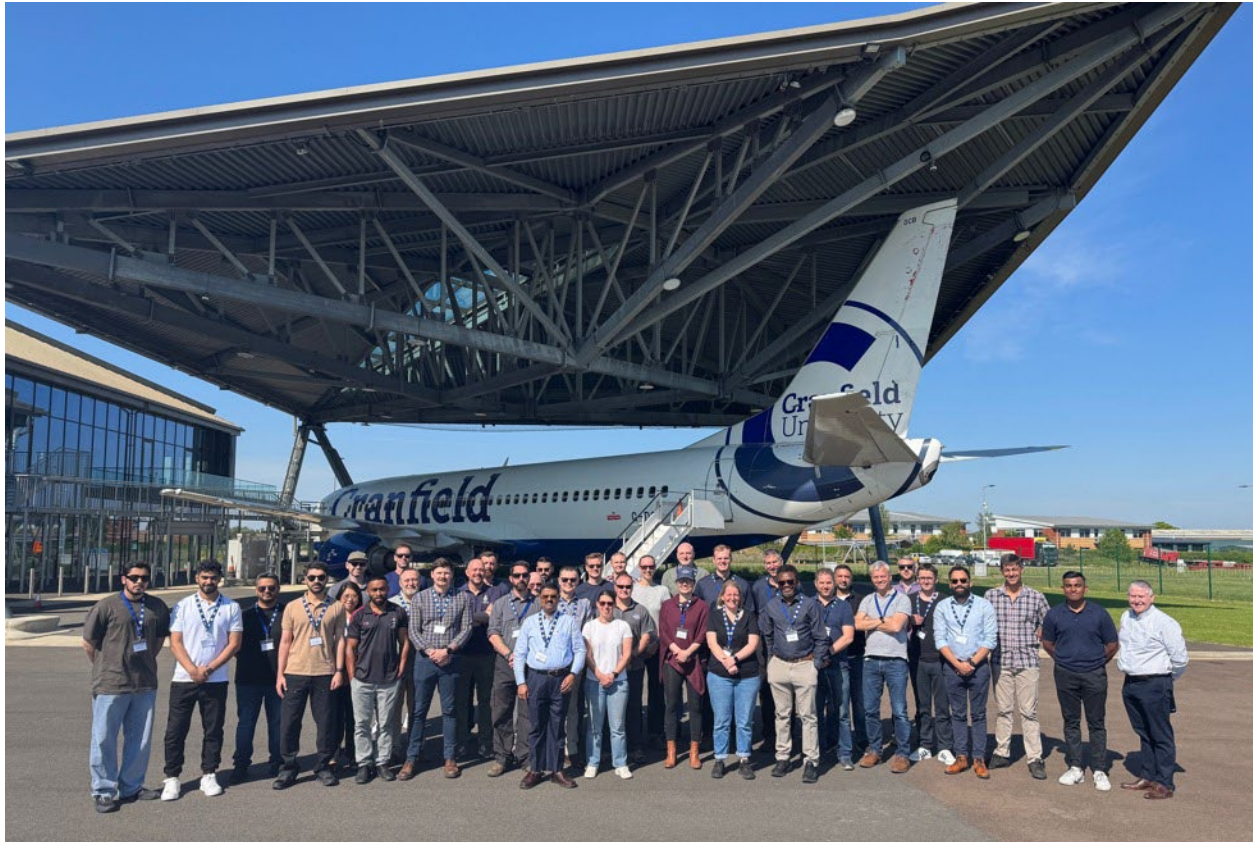


Many Congratulations UNSW Aviation on your 30th Anniversary!





I wish I was with you!



The global landscape

- **Politicization of cause**
 - Influence on investigation
 - Influence on expectations
 - Abuse of “root cause”
- **Rising cost of changes**
 - Mega-fleets
 - Inhibitors to change
 - Supply-chain vulnerabilities





Alaska Airlines B737MAX-9, 5th January 2024



Live TV

First Boeing 737 Max 9 with passengers flies after three-week grounding, Alaska Airlines COO sits next to door plug

By Gregory Wallace, Jeffrey Kopp and Pete Muntean, CNN

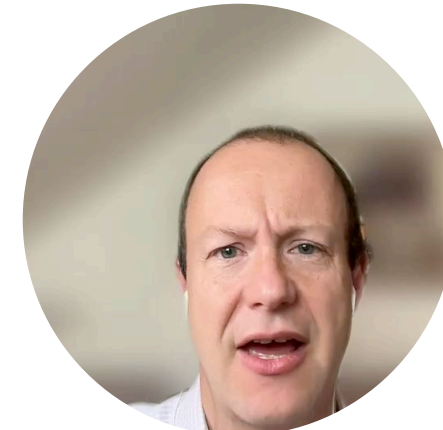
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Published 7:57 PM EST, Fri January 26, 2024



CNN

Alaska Airlines COO Constance von Muehlen onboard the first Boeing 737 Max 9 to fly with passengers after three-week grounding on Friday, January 26.



The nature of the role

- **Societal expectations remain high**
 - Speed of investigation
 - Ease of investigation
- **Infrequency of major accidents**
 - Establishing capability
 - Developing competencies
 - Maintaining competence





A350 & DHC-8 Tokyo Haneda, 2nd January 2024



Annex 19 investigations

- **Investigator training**
 - Competencies
 - Empowerment
 - Maintaining currency
- **Expectations of others**
 - Root cause
 - Liability
- **Recommendations**
 - Pitching for greatest effect
 - Whack-a-mole...



British Airways Fined \$4.25 Million After Employees Hurt In Falls



Photo: Ceri Breeze | Shutterstock



By Prachi Patel — Published 2 days ago



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Thread 3

British Airways has been fined \$4.2 million (£3.2 million) after two baggage handlers were injured in separate falls at **London Heathrow Airport**. The incidents occurred in 2022 and 2023 and involved staff members using aircraft-loading equipment that

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New developments

- **The rise of AI**
 - Report processing
 - Trend analysis
 - Misinformation
- **Technological transformation**
 - Systems complexity
 - Re-design for the future
 - Shifting demographics
 - Environmental effects
 - Intelligent systems
 - Full autonomy





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