

Fundamentals of Accident Investigation

16 January - 3 February 2012

14 May - 1 June 2012

The Cranfield Safety and Accident Investigation Centre presents the Fundamentals of Accident Investigation courses for 2012. With over 35 years experience in the field of investigator training, we recognise that there are core techniques that underpin accident investigation, and that many of these are common to all modes of transport and beyond.

This course focuses on the fundamental skills required by an accident investigator, and draws upon the experiences of the air, marine and rail transport industries to give a balanced view of the accident investigation process. The course structure has been developed in close collaboration with the accident investigation community and with the endorsement of the Centre's Industry Advisory Board.

The course benefits from significant participation by members of the UK Air, Marine and Rail Accident Investigation Branches, and brings together the considerable expertise and experience of investigators, operators and researchers to deliver a level of training that is second to none.

This course is assessed, with successful completion counting towards the postgraduate programme in Safety and Accident Investigation.

Course objectives

On successful completion of the course the delegates will be able to:

- Describe the accident investigation process for a transport accident, including elements of preparation, emergency response, evidence collection and analysis, report writing and safety recommendations
- Work safely under supervision at an accident site
- Conduct witness interviews and collect material evidence from a variety of relevant sources
- Perform an analysis of evidence to develop a no-blame report of what occurred and recommendations for future preventions
- Critically assess strategies for working alongside interested parties including emergency services, legal services, pathologist, scientific support, news media, families and regulatory authorities

This course is assessed, with successful completion counting towards the postgraduate programme in Safety and Accident Investigation.

Who should attend?

The course is designed for those who may have to conduct, or participate in, an accident investigation. This may be in the role of official state investigator, or as a representative of a manufacturer, operator or service provider. Although the main focus of the course is the civil transport industry, there is also considerable value for military personnel and there is always a significant military presence on the course.

All lectures and workshops will be in English and due to the intensity of the course those without a thorough knowledge of English would be at a severe disadvantage. There are no formal qualifications for entry, but course numbers are limited and courses are usually oversubscribed.





General information

Fees

Course fee £4,865

Accommodation fee £1,615

This 3 week course is held twice a year and the course fee includes tuition, luncheon, beverages and the end of Course Dinner. The accommodation fee includes single room, breakfast and evening meal from Sunday 15 Jan/13 May 2012 until Friday 3 Feb/31 May 2012. Accommodation will be in individual en-suite study bedrooms on the campus of the University.

Booking

Book your place online at:

cranfield.ac.uk/soe/shortcourses/accident-investigation

Location

Cranfield University is situated just off the main M1 motorway linking London and Birmingham. The campus is within easy reach by car of Luton Airport (½ hour), Birmingham Airport (1 hour) and Heathrow Airport (1½ hours).

The nearest railway stations are Bedford and Milton Keynes and both have fast and frequent services to Central London.

There are also direct trains from Bedford to Luton and Gatwick airports and from Milton Keynes to Birmingham Airport.



Course content

The course features a number of major case studies presented by the investigators involved, together with tutorial sessions and accident simulations. Topics covered during this course include:

- Legislation and regulation
- Appraisal of the accident site
- Disaster response
- Recovery of wreckage
- Collection of evidence
- Accident photography
- Hazards management on site
- Wreckage recovery
- Interviewing techniques
- Structures and crashworthiness
- Human Factors for investigators
- Media management
- Accident pathology
- Court procedures for investigators
- Data recorders and their analysis
- Analytical techniques
- Systemic approach to investigation
- Managing investigations
- Liaising with victims and their families
- Relations with the regulator/interested parties
- Developing and managing recommendations
- Report writing
- Follow-up actions

Speakers

One of the strengths of Cranfield is that we bring together a world-class group of experts to share their experiences. The course contains contributions from representatives of the UK Air, Marine and Rail Accident Investigation Branches, together with experts from a range of areas vital to the process of accident investigation, with recent contributors including:

- BBC News
- British Transport Police (ex)
- Disaster Action
- Human Factor Investigations Ltd
- Kent Police College
- Military Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (MAAIB)
- Recovair

Course Director

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