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2nd FRAM WORKSHOP

20-22 February, 2008

Ecole des Mines de Paris, Sophia Antipolis, France



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1





FRAM: New insight in accident investigation?

Comparing Sequentially Timed Events Plotting method (STEP, Hendrick & Benner, 1986) and Functional Resonance Accident Model (FRAM, Hollnagel, 2004)

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Purpose

 What we can learn from both methods, how, when, and why to apply them, and which aspects of these methods may need improvement



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Multi-sequential accident model

Assumption:

An accident is a special class of process where a perturbation transforms a dynamically stable activity into unintended interacting changes of states with a harmful outcome.







Sequential Time Event Plotting

Consequence: Accidents are prevented by identifying, classifying and eliminating safety hazards.

Safety requires constant ability to detect uncontrolled changes and counteract their effects.

Hazards-risks: Are disruptive changes (perturbations) that persons or things introduce, which trigger undesired interactions



Adapted based on © Erik Hollnagel, 2004



STEP in short

- Multilinear sequences in a worksheet
 - Basis for the investigation
 - Establishes recommendations from the accident sequence
- Worksheet structure
 - Rows actors
 - Columns follows time frame
 - The description of the accident is performed by universal events building blocks. Events flows in a process linked with arrows
- Three tests to check completeness of the sequence





FRAM steps

- 0 Define the purpose of modelling (accident investigation/risk assessment) and describe the target situation or scenario to be analysed.
- 1 Identify essential system functions; characterise each function by six basic aspects.
- 2 Characterise the (context dependent) potential variability using a checklist. Consider both normal and worst case variability.
- 3 Define functional resonance based on possible dependencies (couplings) among functions.



Identify barriers for variability (damping factors) and specify required performance monitoring.



6

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The LN-KKL case



Boeing B737-36N from Norwegian Air Shuttle was enroute from Stavanger lufthavn Sola to Oslo lufthavn Gardermoen (OSL). Under the last part of the flight, at this time the aircraft has established localizer (LLZ) and glidepath (GP) for runway 19L, the glidepath signal was off. Immediately after the glide path signal disappears the aircraft increases descend rate to 2200ft/min while the aircraft is flown manually towards LLZminima. The aircraft came into a significant lower approach than expected and was at the lowest at 460ft over ground at DME 4,8. The distance at this point from the runway terminal should be 1100ft higher. The approach was cancelled due to the aircraft was still in dense clouds and the aircraft drifted a little bit from the LLZ at OSL. The **crew did not notice** that the aircraft movements were not normal."



7

Norwegian Accident Investigation Board SL RAP.: 20/2004



STEP worksheet



There is no communication between tower and aircraft 1
Not coordinated change roles between flying pilot and non flying pilot
Reference of low altitude







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Applying FRAM

0 Define the purpose of modelling (accident investigation) and describe the target situation or scenario to be analysed

Result: Purpose of the analysis and context

1 Identify essential system functions; characterise each function by six basic parameters

Result: List of functions









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2 Potential for variability

- 11 Common Performance Conditions (CPCs):
- Availability of personnel and equipment,
- Training, preparation, competence,
- Communication quality,
- Human-machine interaction, operational support,
- Availability of procedures,
- Work conditions,
- Goals, number and conflicts,
- Available time,

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- Circadian rhythm, stress,
- Team collaboration,
- Organizational quality

Result: Characterization of variability

After identifying the CPCs, the variability needs to be determined in a qualitative way in terms of stability, predictability, sufficiency, and boundaries of performance



2 Potential for variability example

11 Common Performance Conditions (CPCs):

- Availability of personnel and equipment,
- Training, preparation, competence, *PF 64 hrs on type*
- Communication quality, crew did not contact TWR (delay)
- Human-machine interaction, operational support, EFIS & GPWS alerts unclear
- Availability of procedures,
- Work conditions,
- Goals, number and conflicts, overloaded
- Available time,
- Circadian rhythm, stress,
- Team collaboration, *switched roles*
- Organizational quality



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Manual

flight APP

FRAM Normal variability

- Change runway to 19L Time available not inadequate for 15miles.
 - Briefings over 10000ft SOP but changes are not out of the ordinary.
- Change APP frq to TWR frq Quality of communication -
 - It is not abnormal delay, but it does not happen very often.
- Change APP frq to TWR frq Concurrent goals CRM
 - Different types of captains from supportive CRM to a situation where pilots do not "share" responsibilities.
- Receiving radio communication Quality of communication
 - Pilots "overload" to step back and analyse the situation to recognise that APP freq still selected



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How to support the management of variability?



3 Functional resonance

- Based on interdependencies among the functions i.e. couplings
- Network connections
- Network problems

Result: Stochastic resonance

Determination of how "stochastic resonance" results from variability propagation





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Functional resonance - incident



24

4 Identify barriers for variability and...

- (1) Physical barrier systems block the movement or transportation of mass, energy, or information. Examples include fuel tanks, safety belts, and filters.
- (2) Functional barrier systems set up pre-conditions that need to be met before an action (by human and/or machine) can be undertaken. Examples include locks, passwords, and sprinklers.
- (3) Symbolic barrier systems are indications of constraints on action that are physically present. Examples include signs, checklists, alarms, and clearances. Potential functions encompass preventing, regulating, and authorizing actions.
- (4) Incorporeal barrier systems are indications of constraints on action that are not physically present. Examples include ethical norms, group pressure, rules, and laws.



Barriers analysis – HSLB Recommendations



"Responsability between control centers should be transferred 8 NM before landing, or at acceptance by radar hand over." (p. 31) (incorporeal prescribing barrier)



Hand-off function deactivated



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FRAM Recommendations



FRAM Recommendations

Training including for ATC & Pilots

- Situations where pilots/ATC have different experience
- Changing conditions

(symbolic barrier)

Communication analysis •





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FRAM Performance Monitoring



Discussion

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