

## Organizational Accidents



### NASA

The term organizational accidents was first coined by James Reason. These are described as an incident that affects organizations instead of individuals and is often catastrophic in nature. Serious incidents often have very different causal chains when compared to other incidents.

Since its formation in 1958, NASA has been focused on goals outside our atmosphere. Those goals are often beyond what is currently possible. NASA attracts some of the best and brightest minds in endeavors that are both highly complex and highly dangerous.

Over the years NASA has had several stunning successes and some significant failures. In this session will explore the links between those failures with a primary focus on the Apollo and Shuttle (STS) programs.

Through the lens of Hypercompliance, we will explore these failures and the causes identified by the independent investigators. As a government agency, investigations are ordered by the oversight body, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. A subcommittee, the Committee on Science and Technology is responsible for general and special investigative and oversight authority.

We will look at the findings of these investigations and how NASA responded to these failures but failed to resolve the underlying issues. The session will highlight the commonality and consistent practices leading to these failures despite attempts to address other identified issues.