



Handling of human remains

The ATSB's hard line

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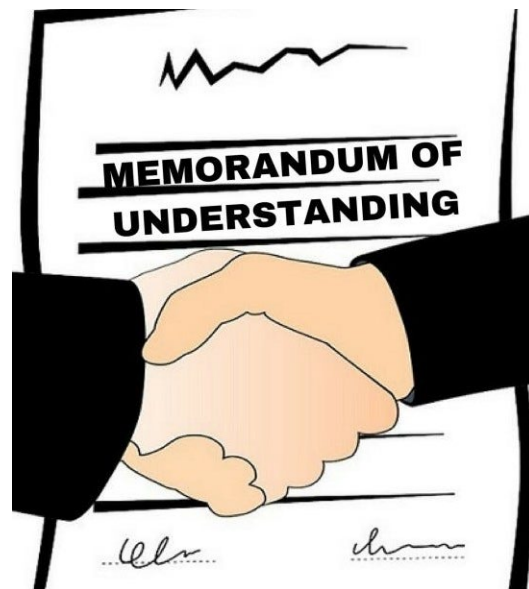
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Human remains recovery

- In Australia human remains recovery is the responsibility of the Coroner
- Recovery coordinated through the accident site commander or local police
- **WARNING:** [ATSB] *Investigators should not involve themselves with any aspect of body or body part recovery at fatal accidents, nor should they be involved in the transport and handling of bagged remains.*

ATSB MoU

- Memorandum of Understanding currently only held with one police service
- Protocols found in the MoU used as best practice with all other States
- Importantly, this MOU does not create legally enforceable rights or obligations for either party.



Roles - State Police Services

- Identify ATSB investigation priorities, prior to entering the accident site or removing deceased persons.
- Taking initial control of the site where deceased persons are present.
- Recording the site prior to the removal of deceased persons to minimise the effect of any disturbance on ATSB investigative processes.



Roles - State Police Services

- Ensuring that any material shared by the ATSB remains secure, and consulting with the ATSB on any limitations to disclosure to third parties, before sharing the information.
- Consulting with the ATSB before significantly disturbing critical aircraft systems.



Roles - State Police Services

- Where there is fragmentation or incineration of human remains, to liaise with the ATSB IIC to arrange for either:
 - ATSB to conduct examinations jointly with police presence to deal with any additional remains that might be discovered, or
 - maintaining a police presence near the site for the duration of the ATSB examination to deal with any additional remains located.

Roles - ATSB

- Not entering a site or commencing activity until human remains are removed by the police, as they will have management of the site
 - note that the ATSB may still have protection orders over evidence and will work with police to provide advice and gain access to evidence if appropriate.



Roles - ATSB

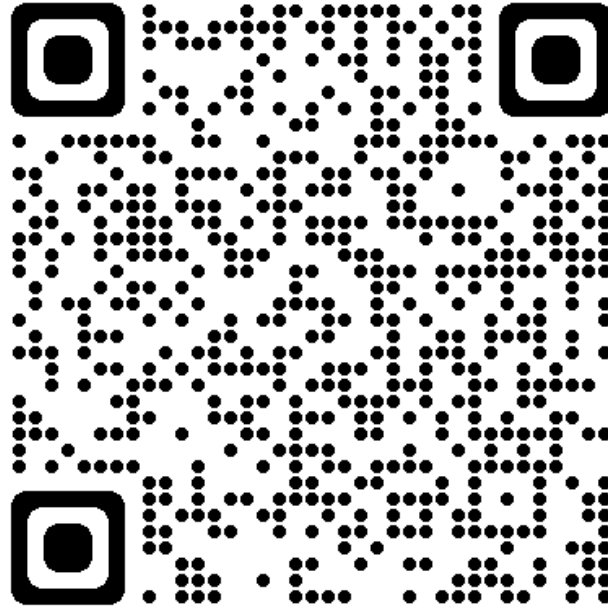
- Not requesting access to photos of the site that depict graphic human remains unless those photos may be relevant to the ATSB investigation.
- Stopping work and notifying the police immediately if any further human remains or other evidence important to the police are identified by ATSB personnel.

Roles - Mutual

- Nominating a liaison officer from the respective investigation teams upon being notified of an incident.
- Exchanging contact information for liaison officers as soon as possible, and ensuring that all communication occurs through these officers.



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