



Web-Enabled Safety System

The Web-Enabled Safety System (WESS), with complete, on-line mishap reporting and data retrieval for non-aviation mishaps, went “live” July 12, 2004. It will simplify and bring into the 21st century field and fleet mishap- and hazard-reporting procedures and safety data analysis. It will be a major improvement over its predecessor, WESS 1, and all previous PC-based and naval message-reporting methods.

When fully implemented, WESS will capture reports and identify the who, what, when, where, how, and why of mishaps and hazards. It also will allow users to enter mishap and hazard notifications, route them through the proper releasing chain for validation, and electronically submit them to the Naval Safety Center. Upon receiving the data, the Naval Safety Center will give it a quality-assurance review and then store it in a consolidated database so it is available for retrieval – WESS users will be able to access a variety of data report options.

WESS will come to the fleet in three releases:

1. Non-aviation mishap and hazard reports: on-line now
2. Aviation hazard reports (HAZREPs): January 2005
3. Aviation mishap reports: December 2005

The non-aviation release will include shore, afloat, ground, work-related illnesses and injuries, home and recreational, motor vehicle, diving, helo rope suspension techniques, cargo air drop, parachuting, combat zone, and aviation/non-aviation explosive mishaps. WESS reporting will consolidate more than a dozen other previous reporting formats under one, consolidated system.

Another major improvement of WESS over all previous mishap-reporting methods is that WESS users no longer must prepare lengthy mishap messages, maintain time-consuming shipboard accident and injury logs, develop their own record-keeping for trend data, or send mishap-report summaries through to their chain

of command. Instead, the answers to questions about Navy mishaps or recurring hazards will be available in real-time data, as will information enabling a user to compare past safety records for trends.

Many suggestions received from customers during the Beta Testing of WESS have been incorporated. The new program’s enhancements include:

- Expanded pull-down menus and pick lists.
 - Question-filtering or Turbo Tax® methodology – Customers will be prompted for only information relevant to the event as based on previous information entered. This will reduce the number of reporting screens the customer sees and reduce event entry time.
 - Page level saves – Data (or information entered) is saved as a draft after each screen is completed. This allows the customer to exit at any time before completing the mishap or hazard report, and the customer can return later to continue.
 - Side bar navigation – This allows the user to jump directly to the desired screen, instead of having to page through all information. Users can also easily return to a specific section of the report to complete those questions as information becomes available.
 - Custom templates – This features lets the user create and store templates for information repetitively reported.
 - Help system – This provides a link for page-, question- and terminology-level definitions.
 - WESS Users’ Guide – This set of PowerPoint modules will offer step-by-step instructions for how to best use various features in WESS.
 - Injury Log and PDF Report – At any time while preparing the report, the user can print off the entire report from a PDF file or print off just their Injury Log.
- WESS promises to be a powerful new tool for safety personnel as they manage their mishaps for prevention. 