

DOCKET NO. SA-516

APPENDIX A

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC**

**DOCUMENT READING PROJECT DATA ELEMENTS AND DEFINITIONS
NOVEMBER 16, 1998
(9 pages)**

Introduction

The parties have agreed that factual information will be extracted from the witness statements in accordance with the definitions and procedures set forth in this document, and those specified in the "General Definitions and Procedures" document developed by the group on September 28, 1998. Although the September 28, 1998, document remains in effect, this document revises and extends the previous one. Where any conflicts exist between the two documents, the definitions and procedures contained in this document shall prevail.

As part of the process of extracting factual information from the witness documents, a Witness Worksheet has been developed by the group. This items from that worksheet appear below along with specific definitions and rules applicable to each. A computerized version of the Witness Worksheet will be created to facilitate the entry of the information into a computer database. A group of document readers will be hired and trained by Safety Board investigators. These document readers will read the witness statements and use the agreed upon definitions and procedures to extract the information specified by the group, which will be entered into the database using the computerized worksheet. Group members may verify the work performed by the document readers and bring any concerns to the attention of the entire witness group at a later date.

Basic information

1. Witness No. _____

This is the unique number assigned to each witness (or potential witness) for tracking and identification purposes. It is associated with a person, not with a particular document.

2. Witness to Accident: Yes _____ No _____ (if "No," stop working)

Witness — anyone who reported hearing a sound and/or seeing an object or objects (including smoke or fire) in the sky in the general vicinity of the accident site, on July 17, 1996, at the approximate time of the TWA flight 800 crash. It must be likely that the sound or object observed was related to the crash, and the report must not be a secondhand (hearsay) account.

Non-witness — anyone who is determined not to be a witness.

3. Date of interview: _____; _____; _____; _____

This is the date that the interview was conducted (not to be confused with the date that the document was prepared or transcribed). On FD-302s, this date appears at the bottom as the "investigation on" date. Some witnesses were interviewed more than once, so each date should be entered.

4. Latecomer witness? Yes _____ No _____ (if "Yes," stop working)

A latecomer is a witness who only reports events that occurred after water impact. For example, a witness who only describes smoke rising offshore.

5. Sound witness? Yes _____ No _____ NM _____

If the witness reported hearing something, check "Yes." If the witness reported not hearing anything, check "No." If the information cannot be determined from the content of the statement, check "NM" for not mentioned. A witness who reports feeling a vibration or concussion possibly related to the accident should be treated as a sound witness.

6. Sight witness? Yes _____ No _____ NM _____

If the witness reported seeing an object in the sky, check "Yes." If the witness reported not seeing such an object, check "No." If the information cannot be determined from the content of the statement, check "NM" for not mentioned.

7. If item 5 and item 6 are both "Yes," which was observed first?
Sound _____ Sight _____ Simultaneous _____ NM _____

If the first event observed by the witness was something he or she heard, check "Sound." If the first event observed by the witness was something he or she saw, check "Sight." If the witness reported that the first observation was both sight and sound at the same time, check "Simultaneous." If the information cannot be determined from the content of the statement, check "NM" for not mentioned.

8. What attracted attention to the event that was first observed?
[NM _____] _____

Text description of what drew the attention of the witness to the first thing observed. This can be something that they saw or heard, as well as another person calling their attention to the sky. If another person called his or her attention to it, enter "Another person."

9. Did the witness estimate the total duration of the visual observation?
Yes _____ No _____

The total duration referred to is a single, overall elapsed time estimate of all the visual events observed. If the witness provided a total estimated elapsed time of all visual events, check "Yes," and the duration entered in the blank for item 10. If the witness did not provide an estimate of the total elapsed time of all the events that they saw, check "No."

10. If item 9 is "Yes," what was the witness-estimated total duration of the visual observation? _____

Enter the witness-estimated total duration of the visual observation. Enter the information as provided in the statement including units (e.g., seconds, minutes). Do not sum any estimates of time pertaining to specific portions of the entire observation (if provided) for this item.

Streak of light

11. Did the witness observe a "streak of light?" Yes _____ No _____ (if "No," skip this section)

A streak of light is defined as an object moving in the sky. Although usually described as ascending, it could be described as arcing over and/or descending. A streak of light is variously described as a point of light, fireworks, a flare, a shooting star, or something similar. It may or may not have a trail. It must not meet the definition of a fireball (see item 31), and it must precede any report of a fireball. Item 6 must be "Yes" if item 11 is "Yes."

12. Did the witness report observing the point of origin of the streak of light?
Yes _____ No _____ (if "No" go to item 15)

If the witness specifically indicates that he or she saw the point of origin, check "Yes." Also, check "Yes" if the streak was observed coming from below the horizon or behind a landmark or obstruction (such as a dune, tree line, building etc.). Check "No" if the witness only voiced a theory, opinion, belief, thought, conclusion, or feeling about the point of origin.

13. If item 12 is "Yes," where did the streak originate: Surface _____ Air _____
Behind landmark/obstruction _____ Horizon _____

Check the box that describes where the witness saw the streak of light originate. Check "Surface" if the streak of light was seen originating from the surface of the earth (e.g., from a boat). Check "Air" if the streak of light was seen originating above the surface of the earth. Check "Behind landmark/obstruction" if the streak was observed coming from behind a landmark or obstruction (such as a dune, tree line, building etc.). Check "Horizon" if the streak was observed coming from below the horizon.

14. If item 12 is "Yes" and item 13 is "Surface," was it:
Land _____ Sea _____ UNK _____ NM _____

Check "Land" or "Sea" to indicate where the witness stated he or she saw the streak of light originate. If the witness indicates that he or she saw the streak come from "the surface" but indicates that he or she is not sure if it came from land or sea, then check "UNK" for unknown. If the witness indicates that he or she saw it come from the surface, but only speculates about whether that point is land or sea, check "UNK" for unknown. If the witness indicates that he or she saw it come from the surface, but does not specify where on the surface he or she saw it originate, check "NM" for not mentioned.

15. If item 12 is "No," did the witness speculate about the origin of the streak?
Yes _____ No _____ (if item 12 is "Yes," or if item 15 is "No" go to item 18)

Check "Yes" if the witness voiced a theory, opinion, belief, thought, conclusion, or feeling about the point of origin. Otherwise check "No."

16. If item 15 is yes, indicate the witness-specified point of origin:
Surface _____ Air _____

Check the box that describes where the witness stated that he or she thought the streak of light originated. Check "Surface" if the streak of light was thought to originate from the surface of the earth (e.g., from a boat). Check "Air" if the streak of light was thought to originate above the surface of the earth.

17. If item 15 is "Yes" and item 16 is "Surface," was it:
Land _____ Sea _____ Horizon _____ NM _____

Check "Land," "Sea," or "Horizon" to indicate where the witness stated he or she thought the streak of light originated. If the witness indicates that he or she thought that the streak came from "the surface" but does not speculate further, then check "NM" for not mentioned.

18. What attracted attention to the streak? [NM _____]

Text description of what drew the attention of the witness to the streak. This can be something that was seen or heard, as well as a statement made by another person. If the witness did not provide information about what caused them to look at the streak, check NM for not mentioned. If another person called his or her attention to it, enter "Another person."

19. How did the witness describe the appearance of the streak? [NM _____]

Text description of how the witness described what the streak looked like. Enter information such as the size, intensity, shape, what it looked similar to (descriptive phrases such as a shooting star, flare, firework, etc.) any other physical characteristics of what the streak looked like. If the witness did not describe what the streak looked like, check "NM" for not mentioned. Do not use this item for descriptions of how the streak moved, or its color.

20. What color was the streak of light?

[NM _____]

Text description of the color(s) of the streak of light. If the witness did not indicate the color of the streak, check "NM" for not mentioned.

21. How did the witness describe the lateral motion and speed of the streak?

[NM _____]

Text description of the streak's direction of travel as described by the witness. Information such as left to right, toward or away, a compass direction, horizontal motion, parallel to the surface, etc. Include any references to lateral speed (or relative speed) of the streak. If the witness did not provide any lateral motion or speed information, check NM for not mentioned.

Do not use this item for descriptions of vertical (such as up/down, changing altitude, ascending/descending) motion or for vertical speed descriptions.

22. How did the witness describe the vertical motion and speed of streak?

[NM _____]

Text description of the streak's vertical motion, such as up/down, changing altitude, ascending/descending, arching over, angle of travel relative to the horizon (but not an angle describing the height of the streak above the horizon). Include any references to vertical speed (or relative speed) of the streak.

Do not use this item for descriptions of lateral motion (such as left to right, toward or away, a compass direction, horizontal, parallel to the surface) or for lateral speed descriptions etc.

23. Based on witness' description, the group's determination of the compass direction that the streak was traveling is: _____

This is a determination based on the witness' lateral description of the streak's motion, and the location of the witness. The actual compass direction (such as east to west) of the streak path of travel, according to the information in the witness statement. Group will determine this value.

24. Did the streak leave a trail? Yes _____ No _____ NM _____ (if "No" or "NM" skip to item 27)

Witness must explicitly state that the streak did, or did not, leave a trail. This trail can be light, smoke, or anything visible. If the witness did not indicate anything about the streak having, or not having a trail, check NM for not mentioned.

25. If yes, how did the witness describe the trail?

[NM _____] _____

Text description of the physical characteristics of what the trail looked like (i.e. smoke, flame, etc) its duration, length, continuous or not, etc. (all, except descriptions of color). If the witness did not describe what the trail looked like, check "NM" for not mentioned.

26. If a trail was reported, what was its color?

[NM _____] _____

Text description of the color of the streak's trail. If the witness did not indicate the color of the trail, check "NM" for not mentioned.

27. How was the event(s) described relative to any landmarks or the horizon?

[NM _____] _____

Text description. Refers to all aspects of the streak (including any trail). Height above horizon of any portion of the streak, (but not an angle of travel of the streak), distance or direction from other objects, whether or not the streak was obscured at any time by any objects, etc

28. How long did the witness observe the streak?

[NM _____] _____

Indicate the amount of time that the witness viewed the streak. Provide an estimate of the duration, a range of time, or descriptive terms like "a few seconds" or "a short time." This item refers only to the observation of the streak, not other observed events.

29. What was the last thing the witness observed about the streak?

fireball eruption _____ lost sight (no fireball) _____

lost sight (then fireball) _____ hit object _____

other _____ NM _____

Use the definitions below to characterize the description given by the witness of how his or her observation of the streak of light terminated. If the information cannot be determined from the content of the statement, check "NM" for not mentioned.

Fireball eruption

The streak was seen to immediately terminate in the eruption of a fireball (see item 31 for the definition of a fireball).

Lost sight (no fireball)

The streak disappeared from view, with no subsequent visual observations.

Lost sight (then fireball)

The streak disappeared from view for some period of time, and then a fireball appeared (the "disappearing" cannot occur simultaneously with the fireball appearing). This does not mean that the witness was distracted or looked away, but rather that the visual attention of the witness was continuous from the time the streak disappeared, through the time that the fireball appeared (see item 31 for the definition of a fireball).

Hit object

The streak was observed to hit another object in the air.

Other

Any other description of the final observation of the streak that does not fit in the above categories.

30. Did the witness report seeing an airplane in the vicinity of and separate from the streak of light? Yes _____ No _____

If the witness reported seeing an airplane in the general vicinity of the streak while the streak was visible, check "Yes." Descriptions of small general aviation airplanes flying near the beach are not applicable to this question.

Fireball/Explosion

31. Did the witness report seeing a fireball or fireballs?
Yes _____ No _____ (if "No," go to next section)

Generally speaking, a fireball is one or more downward-moving ball(s) of fire in the sky. A fireball can be described as an explosion, a bright orange flame, a large ball of light, a wall of flames, a glowing object falling from the sky. It may be characterized as stationary or descending.

Generally, if a fireball is mentioned, it is one of the last airborne events described. A fireball is something that appears in the sky after the termination of a streak of light, if a streak is reported. A fireball is not an ascending object, nor an object that meets the definition of a streak of light. Item 6 must be "Yes" if item 31 is "Yes."

32. How many fireballs were first observed? _____
(if more than one, skip to item 37)

When the witness first observed the fireball(s), how many were present? If a number is given, enter the number. Use words if the witness characterizes the number of fireball as "many" or "several," etc.

33. Did the witness report seeing the fireball originate or erupt?
Yes _____ No _____ (if "No," go to 35)

If the witness specifically reports seeing the fireball form or begin, check "Yes." For witnesses who look up and see a fireball already existing in the sky, check "No."

34. If yes, how did the witness describe the formation or eruption of the fireball?

[NM _____]

Text description of how the witness described the eruption of the fireball. If no description is provided, check "NM" for not mentioned.

35. Did the witness observe the fireball split into two or more fireballs?

Yes _____ No _____ NM _____

If the witness describes seeing a single fireball splitting or separating into two or more fireballs, check "Yes". If the witness did not see a split or separation, check "No." If the witness did not mention seeing the fireball split, check "NM."

36. If item 35 is yes, how long did the witness view the fireball before it split into two or more fireballs? [NM _____]

Record any timing estimates about how long the witness observed the single fireball, before seeing it split into two or more fireballs. This can be an exact amount of time (such as "10 seconds"), a range of time (such as "3 to 5 seconds"), or a descriptive phrase like "a few moments." If no such estimate is provided, check "NM" for not mentioned.

37. What first attracted attention to the fireball(s)? [NM _____]

Text description of what drew the witness' attention to the fireball. This can be something SEEN or heard, or it could be another person calling attention to the sky. If another person called attention to the fireball, enter "Another person." It could also be the streak of light event (for example, the witness may have been viewing the streak of light, and continued to watch until seeing the fireball). If the witness did not provide information about what caused them to look at the fireball, check "NM" for not mentioned.

38. Did the witness report observing the fireball(s) hit the water/horizon?

Yes _____ No _____ NM _____

If the witness explicitly states that he or she saw the fireball hit the water, or drop all the way to the horizon, check "Yes." If the witness saw the fireball falling, but the final view was obstructed by anything such as tree lines, dunes, buildings, etc., then check "No." Check "NM" if the witness did not mention seeing the fireball hit the water or horizon.

39. How long did the witness observe the entire fireball(s) event?

[NM _____]

This is the entire duration (combined, if necessary) of all fireball events that were observed. Can be specific time estimates, relative times, or descriptive terms, as provided. If no such estimate is provided, check "NM" for not mentioned.

40. How did the witness describe the fireball(s)?

[NM _____]

Provide a text description of how the witness characterized the appearance of the fireball(s), including how it moved or its size. Do not use this item to record the color of the fireball(s).

41. What color was the fireball(s) [NM _____]

Text description of the color(s) of the fireball.

42. How was the fireball(s) described relative to any landmarks or the horizon?
[NM _____] _____

Text description of the position of the fireball above horizon (not angle of travel), its distance or direction from other objects, including if it is obscured at any time by any objects, etc.

Sound

43. If a sound was heard, how many were reported? [NM _____] _____

How many sounds did the witness report hearing? If a number is given, enter the number. Use words if the witness characterizes the number as "many" or "several," etc. If the witness did not provide a number of sounds heard check "NM." Skip this section if the item 5 is not "Yes."

44. How did the witness describe the sound(s) or concussion(s)? [NM _____]

Provide the text used to describe the sound. For example, what did it sound like? (e.g., firecracker, boom, sonic boom, thunder, car backfire)? What did it feel like? (e.g., shook the bridge, house). Give any relation between the sounds (e.g., first was louder or softer than the second).

45. Did the witness report seeing something specific at about the time they heard the sound? Yes _____ No _____ (if "No" stop working)

Did the witness report any specific visual observations that occurred at about the same time as the sound.

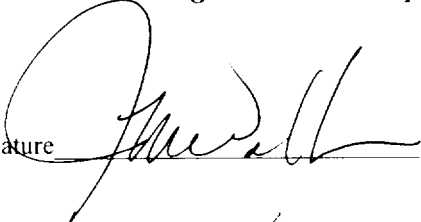
46. What did the witness report seeing at about the time the sound(s) were heard?
[NM _____] _____

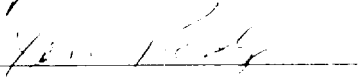
What was the visual event that was observed at about the same time the sound(s) were heard?

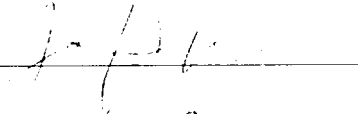
47. How were the order and timing described? [NM _____]

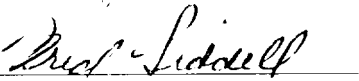
Text description of the order and timing information about the sound and sight events. Any references to the sequence of the sight and sound observations, and the estimated elapsed time between these events should be included.


My signature below verifies that I have reviewed and agree with the procedures and definitions in this document.

ALPA: Printed Name JAMES M. WALTERS Signature  Date 2-10-99

BOEING: Printed Name DENNIS RODRIGUEZ Signature  Date 2-10-99

FAA: Printed Name JOHN W. PIRHALLA Signature  Date 2-10-99

IAM: Printed Name FRED LIDDELL Signature  Date 7-28-97

TWA: Printed Name ROBERT YOUNG Signature  Date 2/10/99