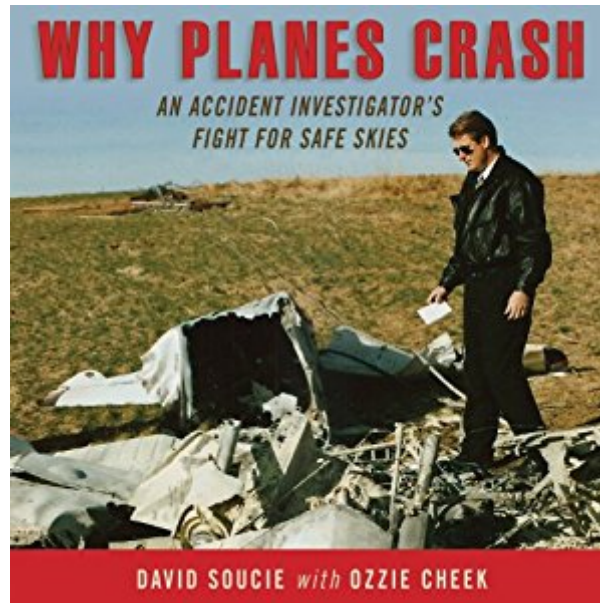


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# Why Planes Crash: An Accident Investigator's Fight For Safe Skies



## Synopsis

Boarding an airplane strikes at least a small sense of fear into most people. Even though we all have heard that the odds of being struck by lightning are greater than the odds of perishing in a plane crash, it still doesn't feel that way. Airplane crashes might be rare, but they do happen, and they're usually fatal. David Soucie insists that most of these deaths could be prevented. He's worked as a pilot, a mechanic, an FAA inspector, and an aviation executive. He's seen death up close and personal - deaths of colleagues and friends that might have been prevented if he had approved certain safety measures in the aircrafts they were handling. His years of experience have led Dave to become an impassioned consultant on the topic of airline safety. This includes not only advising the Obama administration, but also taking a leading role in the congressionally funded NextGen interdepartmental initiative in regards to both the department of transportation and the departments of defense, homeland security, FBI, CIA, and others. Find out the truth about airplane safety and discover what the future holds for air travel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Straight out, I need to make an admission - I went to high school with the author. No pressure, right? I have been reviewing books, and a vast variety of work in other media, for two decades now. When I found out that a former classmate had written a book, I requested a copy from him, without his prior solicitation. I was insatiably curious. My nervousness about the possibility of reading something awful, and having to pan the work of a nice guy, was groundless. "Why Planes Crash"

stands on its own merits, a thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking read. It succeeds on many levels. First, it's an engaging autobiography, outlining the author's personal and professional progress and pitfalls as he moves from aircraft mechanic to maintenance director to FAA inspector and beyond. The number of alternately hilarious, horrifying and moving moments he has experienced in his career alone makes fascinating reading. A key factor in this level of satisfaction is the tone of the book. It's an old cliché that you should write as you speak, with a directness and sense of comfort that draws in the reader. It's also absolutely true, and damnably difficult to pull off. Years of artifice, bad habits and self-consciousness usually have to be stripped away before a writer's voice can truly be heard. Fortunately, with the aid of Ozzie Cheek, Soucie accomplishes this. In fact, it's a special treat to read this book from my unique perspective as, having known him for 30-odd (or 30 odd) years, I can attest that it sounds like Dave is talking directly to me.

Improving Aviation Safety “ Until that day, I had thought of flying as fun, a chance to be free from the earth and to command the universe from high above. Mr. McCauley gave me my first glimpse of the pain and suffering that flying can cause. Although unknown to me at the time, this was the beginning of my lifelong passion – some would say obsession – for improving aviation safety. It was not my plan, but it was my fate.” • Why Planes Crash, page 14. For more than 30 years Mr. Soucie has been, and is continuing to be to this day, an advocate for aviation safety. When you read his book, he documents the reason and explains why planes crash and how some of the crashes he's investigated, as an aviation accident investigator, could have been prevented. He also provides insights to change the way we think to make safer choices both in and out of the aviation industry. In addition to his professional commitment in aviation, it is also a personal commitment. Mr. Soucie explains in detail the heart-wrenching personal pain and loss of friends and colleagues that has changed his life forever and continues to be motivated to keep fulfilling promises made to improve aviation safety. While the book has chilling and gripping detailed accounts of accidents Mr. Soucie has investigated, he has been sensitive about the details with respect to their families. I believe that in reading the book and his accounts about his personal pain and loss, these life-changing experiences probably allowed him to become even more sensitive and compassionate towards those who also have lost loved ones. For those considering a career in the FAA, Mr.

I bought this book figuring I'd learn mistakes others have made, and may keep from doing them myself. What I got was that, plus insight of why many of the government's rules created in the name

of safety are knee jerk reactions to an event, without their doing much to really prevent it from recurring (to me no different than criminal laws which are piled on top of each other, but really don't do anything to make us safer). The author describes other ways of looking at accident investigations than the traditional methods, but it seems like a bureaucracy the size of the FAA has little or no chance of ever implementing them. I'd say the FAA can talk about safety, but doing it in a logical manner is impossible in a political organization the size of the FAA/DOT. For the FAA safety is a business, constrained by the same things that constrain any business (too bad all the piles of our money given to the FAA aren't used more efficiently!). The author demonstrated a way to use readily available computer data to anticipate accidents caused by the least dependable parts on planes (on air carriers), but it seems as if politics has derailed some of those efforts. A computer program that would do this for GA planes would make parts less expensive over time, reducing the cost to everybody maintaining GA planes. Instead GA parts prices are insane, which makes general aviation unaffordable to most (small business or recreation). If the cost of parts on corporate business jets were reduced, that tube of toothpaste or toy would cost us all just a little less.

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