SIGTTO

MAJOR SHIPPING INCIDENT LESSONS

Incident Learning Sheet - October 2026

What Happened

Major shipping incidents have had a lasting impact on maritime regulations and industry practices.

Understanding how these regulations evolved helps explain why many current safety requirements exist today.

Examples of major incidents and the changes they helped drive are listed below.



Key Lessons

Theme	Incidents Driving Change
Environmental protection	Torrey Canyon, Exxon Valdez, Erika, Prestige
Human factors and leadership	Herald of Free Enterprise, Costa Concordia
Structural integrity and design	Estonia, Amoco Cadiz
Survivability and evacuation	Estonia, Titanic
Management accountability	Herald of Free Enterprise, Exxon Valdez

Learning from Incidents

Further Information

Background information is available on the relevant Wikipedia pages. However, readers are encouraged to consult the official investigation reports for a more detailed understanding of the incidents and the resulting developments in maritime safety. Examples include:

- Herald of Free Enterprise
- Torrey Canyon
- Amoco Cadiz
- Exxon Valdez

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