Crash of USS Akron - The Deadliest Airship Crash in History

The Crash of the USS Akron
Off the coast of New Jersey
April 3, 1933

Many people have heard of the Hindenburg, but have you heard of the USS Akron? The Hindenburg crashed in 1937, killing 35 people. The USS Akron crash four years earlier killed 73, making it the deadliest airship crash in history.

2. Analysis

Safety Goal Impacted
73 killed
Evidence: Reports from the investigation into the accident.

3. Solutions

The final step in building a Cause Map is to determine solutions to help prevent the problem from reoccurring. In this case, airships lost popularity as airplanes came on the scene. But another solution worth considering is keeping sufficient flotation devices onboard. Lack of safety gear is a reoccurring theme in many historical disasters. For example, the sinking of the Titanic would be a very different story if there had been sufficient lifeboats onboard. This example might be very different if the crew had been wearing life jackets. The airship would still have been lost, but there would likely have been fewer casualties.