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# NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: March 3, 1981

Forwarded to:

Mr. Charles E. Weithoner  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-81-23

About 1546 c.d.t., on June 12, 1980, an Air Wisconsin, Inc., Swearingen SA-226 Metro operating as Flight 965 crashed near Valley, Nebraska. Flight 965 encountered an area of severe thunderstorms while at an altitude of less than 6,000 feet and experienced a simultaneous loss of power to both engines because of massive water ingestion. The aircraft crashed in a field and was destroyed. Of the 15 persons aboard the aircraft, 13 were killed and 2 were injured seriously.<sup>1/</sup>

During the investigation, an examination of Air Traffic Control (ATC) Handbook 7110.65B revealed that procedures for handling Center Weather Advisories (CWAs) are not contained in the Handbook. CWAs are prepared by meteorologists in the Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCC) and are issued as an update to reflect changing conditions in current hourly Convective SIGMETS, <sup>2/</sup> as well as when meteorological conditions meet SIGMET <sup>3/</sup> criteria. CWAs are disseminated by the weather coordinator/flow controller in the ARTCC to the affected sectors and Federal Aviation Administration facilities.

Currently, procedures for handling Convective SIGMETS and SIGMETS are contained in paragraph 41 of ATC Handbook 7110.65B. However, because of the nature and importance of CWAs to the safety of all aircraft, the Safety Board believes that procedures for handling CWAs should also be included in the Handbook.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

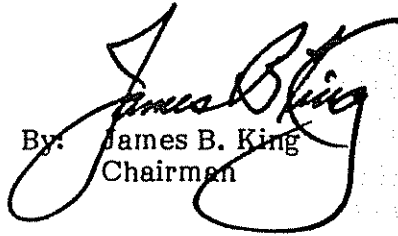
<sup>1/</sup> For more detailed information, read "Aircraft Accident Report--Air Wisconsin, Inc., Swearingen SA-226 Metro, N650S, Valley, Nebraska, June 12, 1980" (NTSB-AAR-80-15).

<sup>2/</sup> A weather advisory issued by the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Missouri, concerning convective weather significant to the safety of all aircraft.

<sup>3/</sup> A weather advisory issued by the National Weather Service concerning weather significant to the safety of all aircraft. A SIGMET is issued for severe and extreme turbulence, severe icing, and widespread duststorms/sandstorms lowering visibilities to below 3 miles.

Publish procedures in Air Traffic Control Handbook 7110.65B covering the handling of Center Weather Advisories. (Class II, Priority Action) (A-81-23)

KING, Chairman, DRIVER, Vice Chairman, McADAMS, GOLDMAN, and BURSLEY, Members, concurred in this recommendation.

  
By: James B. King  
Chairman