



NOAA Aviation Safety

March 13, 2006

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Contact Us

Aviation.Safety@noaa.gov

Aviation Safety Web Site

The NOAA Aviation Safety Program Web site at:

<http://www.aviationsafety.noaa.gov> is new and improved! There is a brand new link to "Frequently Asked Questions" in addition to new content on nearly every page. Please browse the site for the latest information on NOAA's Aviation Safety Policy and Program and check back often to keep up to date as we develop the various components of the new Safety Program.

Aviation Safety Policy

NOAA's Aviation Safety Policy will initially be published as NOAA Circular 06-01 until all components of the Safety Program are developed. The policy will not be binding on affected individuals until NOAA Circular 06-01 is replaced by NOAA Administrative Order 209-124 "Aviation Safety Policy." In the interim, affected personnel will continue to be governed by the "Interim Guidance Regarding Use of Non-NOAA Aircraft" Memorandum issued on July 1, 2005. See the draft safety policy and interim guidance memo at: <http://www.aviationsafety.noaa.gov>

Aviation Life Support Equipment (ALSE)

The Aviation Safety Program is in the process of procuring ALSE for the offices that transferred funds for this purpose. The estimated delivery date for most of the equipment is sometime in late May or early June. If you have questions or additional ALSE requirements, please contact Jon Dixon at (813) 828-3310 x3040, or by email Jon.F.Dixon@noaa.gov. Details regarding ALSE program and requirements are posted at: http://www.oma.noaa.gov/aviationsafety/safety_alse.html.

Medical Screening

The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations is developing an on-line "NOAA Health Services Aviation Questionnaire." It will be used for medical screening of all personnel (NOAA and non-NOAA) categorized as qualified non-crewmembers or observers who need to fly mission operations on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA in accordance with the new Aviation Safety Policy. This on-line database is expected to be available for use in July 2006. To learn more, please visit the Aviation Safety Web site at: <http://www.oma.noaa.gov/aviationsafety/medical.html>.

Aviation Safety Training

Aviation safety training will be required for all personnel (NOAA and non-NOAA) who participate as "Qualified Non-Crewmembers" in "Mission Operations" flights on aircraft owned or operated by NOAA when all components of the Aviation Safety Program are complete and NOAA replaces NOAA Circular 06-01 with NOAA Administrative Order 209-124 "NOAA Aviation Safety Policy." The training requirements are posted at: <http://www.oma.noaa.gov/aviationsafety/safety.html>. The two NOAA E-Learning training modules (NOAA Aviation Safety Policy and Procedures, and Basic Aviation Safety and Survival) are currently being developed, and recommended training vendors and courses for water ditching and cold weather survival will be posted soon. Please check back for updates on this Web page.

Aviation Safety Board

The Aviation Safety Board was established on January 10, 2006. The Board Terms of Reference and meeting minutes are posted at: <http://www.oma.noaa.gov/aviationsafety/asboard.html>. Board members are responsible for communicating aviation safety requirements down to the lowest levels of their line/staff offices and for facilitating collection of information/concerns within the line offices to bring to the board for discussion. If you have questions or concerns regarding aviation safety, please contact your Line Office Board members:

- NESDIS – Amanda Bittinger / Celso Barrientos
 - NMFS – Rick Brown / Jay Kennedy
 - NOS – Brian Taggart / Matt Pickett
 - NWS – Terry Brisbin
 - OAR – Ralph Rogers / Wade Blake
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NOAA Aircraft Operator Database (NAOD)

The Aviation Safety Program is currently developing a NOAA Aircraft Operator Database which will contain a list of air service providers qualified to provide aviation services to NOAA. Operators in this database will meet or exceed NOAA airworthiness and operational safety standards. The NAOD is located at: <http://www.oma.noaa.gov/aviationsafety/dbaccess/index.html>. After all components of the Aviation Safety Program are complete and NOAA issues the NAO 209-124 Aviation Safety Policy, NOAA personnel will only be authorized to charter or fly aboard aircraft that are listed on the NAOD, unless a waiver is granted by the Director of Marine and Aviation Operations. The only exceptions to this policy are for flights on aircraft owned and operated by other departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States; by state or local governments; or by the governments of countries that meet the Federal Aviation Administration International Safety Assessment Program Category I rating; and for authorized use of privately owned aircraft for transportation. Privately owned, military, and government aircraft will not be listed on the NAOD.