

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: April 14, 1975

Forwarded to:

Mr. James E. Dow
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D. C. 20591

} SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-75-29

The National Transportation Safety Board recently completed a study on general aviation airplane weight-and-balance related accidents for 1969 through 1973. The study showed that 213 accidents resulted in 273 fatalities and 115 serious injuries during the 5-year period.

The study further revealed that, in some cases, the pilot did not calculate the airplane weight and balance for the flight. Since all pilots are required to be knowledgeable on the subject of airplane weight and balance, the Safety Board can only hypothesize that the pilots involved in the accidents either inadvertently or deliberately disregarded that aspect of preflight, or that they lacked the necessary knowledge to perform the weight and balance calculations correctly.

To reduce or eliminate general aviation weight and balance related accidents, the Safety Board believes that there is a need for a program to impress all pilots with the importance of calculating correctly an airplane's weight and balance before each flight to assure that the manner of loading will preclude any risk of an accident due to an overweight or out-of-balance condition.

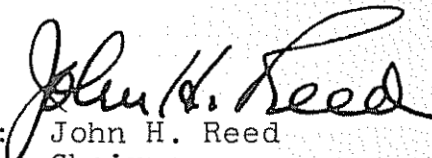
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Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

Issue an Advisory Circular for the guidance of all pilots and particularly to those persons authorized to give the periodic pilot flight reviews required by 14 CFR 61.57 and 14 CFR 61.58, which will stress the safety aspects of weight and balance to assure that pilots:

- a. understand the effect of weight and balance on safe flight, and
- b. are proficient in the computation of airplane weight and balance.

REED, Chairman, McADAMS, THAYER, BURGESS, and HALEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.

By: 
John H. Reed
Chairman

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