

CERTALERT

ADVISORY CAUTIONARY NON-DIRECTIVE

AIRPORT SAFETY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION AAS-300

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT MARC TONNACLIFF AAS-300 (202) 267-8732

DATE: 07/18/08 No. 0807
TO: Airport Operators, FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspectors
TOPIC: GUIDANCE ON THE HIGH-REACH EXTENDABLE TURRET (HRET)

BACKGROUND:

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found there was insufficient training on the HRET by the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) department. The (NTSB) recommended the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provide guidance to ARFF personnel on the best training methods used to obtain and maintain proficiency with the HRET with skin penetrating nozzle. (See NTSB recommendation A-07-100)

ACTION:

Utilizing realistic hands on training is the best approach to obtain and enhance the learning process. Funding for this training activity is available through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) from the FAA. When airports purchase an ARFF vehicle equipped with an HRET, they are also authorized to purchase training aids to enhance and maintain their proficiency in operation of the HRET. Use of the training aids provides the tools necessary for the vehicle operator to maintain and enhance their proficiency with the HRET.

1. Advisory Circular 150/5220.10D states, the customer can receive a total of eight days of training from the manufacturer when an ARFF vehicle with a HRET is purchased. The training is divided between driving, operational use of the HRET and vehicle maintenance.
2. There is a computer based training (CBT) program and joystick available from the manufacturer. This program provides the operator the ability to obtain training without actually using the vehicle. It is a good tool which allows the operator the ability to become familiar with and develop the skills necessary in preparation for actual hands on operation of the HRET.
3. The Penetration Aircraft Skin Trainer (PAST) allows actual hands operation of utilizing the HRET and the airports vehicle. It provides the operator the ability to actually pierce the same type of metal on the same curvature of an actual aircraft. This provides the closest simulation to actually penetrating an actual aircraft fuselage. It provides the operator confidence necessary to perform under extreme conditions.



Penetration Aircraft Skin Trainer (PAST)

There is no substitution for realistic hands on training. Continued use of these training devices will aid in improving and maintaining proficiency with the HRET.

If you have any questions or comments relating to this CERTALERT, please contact Marc Tonnacliff at (202) 267-8732 or marc.tonnacliff@faa.gov.

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