

# CERTALERT

## AIRPORT SAFETY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION, AAS-300

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT John Weller, AAS-300, (202) 267-3778

DATE: June 11, 2009 No. 09-10  
TO: Airport Operators, FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspectors  
TOPIC: Wildlife Hazard Assessments in Accordance with Part 139 Requirements

**Purpose:** To remind airport operators of their obligations under Part 139 to conduct Wildlife Hazard Assessments if certain criteria are met.

**Background:** The risk of wildlife strikes to aircraft has been increasing. Many populations of wildlife species commonly involved in strikes have increased markedly in the last three decades and adapted to living in urban environments, including near airports. Thirteen of the 14 bird species in North America with mean body masses greater than 8 lbs have shown significant population increases during this time. For example, from 1980 to 2006, the resident (non-migratory) Canada goose population in the USA and Canada increased at a mean rate of 7.3 percent per year. In addition, commercial air traffic has increased from about 18 million aircraft movements in 1980 to over 28 million in 2007.

Part 139 requires certificated airports to conduct a Wildlife Hazard Assessment if they experience a triggering event.

According to section 139.337(b):

*"In a manner authorized by the Administrator, each certificate holder must ensure that a Wildlife Hazard Assessment is conducted when any of the following events occurs on or near the airport:*

- (1) An air carrier aircraft experiences multiple wildlife strikes;*
- (2) An air carrier aircraft experiences substantial damage from striking wildlife. As used in this paragraph, substantial damage means damage or structural failure incurred by an aircraft that adversely affects the structural strength, performance, or flight characteristics of the aircraft and that would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component;*
- (3) An air carrier aircraft experiences an engine ingestion of wildlife; or*
- (4) Wildlife of a size, or in numbers, capable of causing an event described in paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(3) of this section is observed to have access to any airport flight pattern or aircraft movement area."*

The Wildlife Hazard Assessment must be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist who meets the requirements in Advisory Circular 150/5200-36, *Qualifications for Wildlife Biologists Conducting Wildlife Hazard Assessments and Training Curriculums for Airport Personnel Involved in Controlling Wildlife Hazards at Airports*. The Wildlife Hazard Assessment must be conducted in accordance with Advisory Circular 150/5200-33B, *Hazardous Wildlife Attractants On or Near Airports* and the Wildlife Hazard Management Manual. The Wildlife Hazard Management Manual can be viewed and downloaded free of charge from the FAA's wildlife hazard mitigation web site: <http://wildlife-mitigation.tc.FAA.gov/>. A Wildlife Hazard Assessment should include:

- (1) An analysis of the events or circumstances that prompted the assessment.
- (2) Identification of the wildlife species observed and their numbers, locations, local movements, and daily and seasonal occurrences.
- (3) Identification and location of features on and near the airport that attract wildlife.
- (4) A description of wildlife hazards to air carrier operations.
- (5) Recommended actions for reducing identified wildlife hazards to air carrier

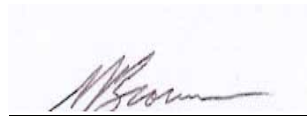
The Office of Safety and Standards (AAS) has conducted a search of the National Wildlife Strike Database. We found a number of airports (see attachment) that appear to have experienced triggering events but we have no record that they have initiated the Wildlife Hazard Assessment (WHA) required by Part 139.

**Actions:** Airports that have experienced a triggering event, but have yet to undertake a wildlife hazard assessment, should be immediately contacted by their FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspector. Airport operators should be directed to review the FAA Wildlife Strike Database at [http://wildlife\\_mitigation.tc.faa.gov/public\\_html/index.html#access](http://wildlife_mitigation.tc.faa.gov/public_html/index.html#access). No password is required. Airport operators must immediately initiate action to start a Wildlife Hazard Assessment if they confirm their airport has experienced a triggering event

Airport Improvement Funds (AIP) for FY 2009 have been identified to assist airports doing WHAs. The money is available on a first come first served basis. For more information about funding options, airport operators should contact their nearest FAA Airports District Office.

As we move to Safety Management Systems, it is incumbent upon airports to be proactive and understand the risk of wildlife strikes before they experience a triggering event. In this regard, the FAA has initiated a rulemaking project that will require certificated airports to conduct WHAs and to periodically update them. However, as the rulemaking process will take a number of years, operators of 139 airports that have not experienced a triggering event, and who have not done a WHA are encouraged to do one. The FAA also asks airports that have WHAs that are more than five years old to voluntarily update them.

Attachment:



Michael W. Brown  
Manager, Airport Safety  
And Operations Division

June 11, 2009  
DATE

DISTRIBUTION CERTALERT

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

REGION	STATE	AIRPORT NAME	ASSOCIATED CITY	AIRPORT CODE	TRIGGERING EVENT
CENTRAL	Kansas	Liberal Muni	Liberal	LBL	1
CENTRAL	Missouri	Columbia Reg	Columbia	COU	12
CENTRAL	Nebraska	Central Nebraska Reg	Grand Island	GRI	1
CENTRAL	Nebraska	McCook Muni	McCook	MCK	4
EASTERN	Maryland	Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Reg	Salisbury	SBY	3
EASTERN	New York	Elmira/Corning Reg	Elmira	ELM	123
EASTERN	New York	Ithaca Tompkins Reg	Ithaca	ITH	1
EASTERN	New York	Massena Int'l - Richards Fld	Massena	MSS	1
EASTERN	Pennsylvania	John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria Co	Johnstown	JST	4
EASTERN	Pennsylvania	Lancaster	Lancaster	LNS	1
EASTERN	Pennsylvania	University Park	State College	UNV	123
EASTERN	Virginia	Lynchburg Reg/ Preston Glenn Fld	Lynchburg	LYH	4
NEW ENGLAND	Maine	Bangor Int'l	Bangor	BGR	1
NEW ENGLAND	Massachusetts	Barnstable Muni	Hyannis	HYA	1
NEW ENGLAND	Massachusetts	Worcester Reg	Worcester	ORH	1
NEW ENGLAND	New Hampshire	Lebanon Muni	Lebanon	LEB	1
NEW ENGLAND	New Hampshire	Manchester	Manchester	MHT	13
NEW ENGLAND	New Hampshire	Pease Int'l Tradeport	Portsmouth	PSM	14
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Colorado	Aspen-Pitkin Co Sardy	Aspen	ASE	14
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Colorado	Montrose Reg	Montrose	MTJ	1
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Colorado	Pueblo Muni	Pueblo	PUB	134
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Colorado	Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport	Denver	BJC	2
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Colorado	Yampa Valley	Hayden	HDN	14
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Idaho	Lewiston- Nez Perce Co	Lewiston	LWS	1
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Idaho	Magic Valley Reg	Twin Falls	TWF	1
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Montana	Bert Mooney	Butte	BTM	4
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Montana	Great Falls Int'l	Great Falls	GTF	1

NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Montana	Helena Reg	Helena	HLN	2
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Montana	LM Clayton	Wolf Point	OLF	234
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Oregon	Klamath Falls Int'l	Klamath Falls	LMT	13
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Utah	Cedar City Muni	Cedar City	CDC	24
NORTHWEST MOUNTAIN	Wyoming	Natrona Co Int'l	Casper	CPR	14
SOUTHERN	Alabama	Mobile Reg	Mobile	MOB	13
SOUTHERN	Florida	Eglin Air Force Base	Valparaiso	VPS	1
SOUTHERN	Florida	Gainesville Reg	Gainesville	GNV	13
SOUTHERN	Florida	Pensacola Reg	Pensacola	PNS	123
SOUTHERN	Georgia	Middle Georgia Reg	Macon	MCN	23
SOUTHERN	Georgia	Valdosta Reg	Valdosta	VLD	1
SOUTHERN	Kentucky	Owensboro-Davies Co	Owensboro	OWB	123
SOUTHERN	Mississippi	Jackson Int'l	Jackson	JAN	13
SOUTHERN	North Carolina	Albert J Ellis	Jacksonville	OAJ	13
SOUTHERN	North Carolina	Smith Reynolds	Winston-Salem	INT	14
SOUTHERN	Puerto Rico	Luis Munoz Marin Int'l	San Juan	SJU	3
SOUTHERN	Puerto Rico	Mercedita	Ponce	PSE	1
SOUTHERN	South Carolina	Charleston International	Charleston	CHS	1
SOUTHERN	South Carolina	Columbia Metro	Columbia	CAE	134
SOUTHERN	South Carolina	Greenville-Spartanburg	Greer	GSP	1
SOUTHERN	South Carolina	Myrtle Beach Jetport	Myrtle Beach	MYR	1
SOUTHERN	Tennessee	Lovell Fld	Chattanooga	CHA	134
SOUTHERN	Tennessee	McGhee Tyson	Knoxville	TYS	13
SOUTHERN	Tennessee	Tri-City Municipal	Bristol/ Johnson/ Kingsport	TRI	14
SOUTHERN	Virgin Islands	Cyril E King	Charlotte Amalie	STT	4
SOUTHWEST	Arkansas	Adams Fld	Little Rock	LIT	13
SOUTHWEST	Arkansas	Fort Smith Reg	Fort Smith	FSM	13
SOUTHWEST	Arkansas	Memorial Fld	Hot Springs	HOT	1
SOUTHWEST	Arkansas	Northwest Arkansas	Fayetteville	XNA	1234
SOUTHWEST	Arkansas	Texarkana Reg-Webb Fld	Texarkana	TXK	4
SOUTHWEST	Louisiana	Baton Rouge Metro-Ryan	Baton Rouge	BTR	1
SOUTHWEST	Louisiana	Lafayette Reg	Lafayette	LFT	14
SOUTHWEST	Louisiana	Lake Charles Reg	Lake Charles	LCH	1
SOUTHWEST	Louisiana	New Orleans Int'l	New Orleans	MSY	1234
SOUTHWEST	New Mexico	Grant Co	Silver City	SVC	4
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Austin Bergstrom Intl	Austin	AUS	1234

SOUTHWEST	Texas	Brownsville/ South Padre Island	Brownsville	BRO	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Bush Intercontinental	Houston	IAH	1234
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Corpus Christi Int'l	Corpus Christi	CRP	134
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Dallas Love Fld	Dallas	DAL	1234
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Easterwood Fld	College Station	CLL	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	El Paso Int'l	El Paso	ELP	1234
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Gregg Co	Longview	GGG	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Jefferson Co	Beaumont/ Port Arthur	BPT	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Laredo Int'l	Laredo	LRD	12
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Lubbock Int'l	Lubbock	LBB	13
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Mathis Fld	San Angelo	SJT	3
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Midland Int'l	Midland	MAF	134
SOUTHWEST	Texas	San Antonio Int'l	San Antonio	SAT	123
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Shepard AFB/Wichita Falls	Wichita Falls	SPS	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Tyler Pounds Fld	Tyler	TYR	1
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Valley Int'l	Harlingen	HRL	123
SOUTHWEST	Texas	Waco Reg	Waco	ACT	123
SOUTHWEST	Texas	William Hobby	Houston	HOU	1234
WESTERN PACIFIC	Arizona	Ernest Love Fld	Prescott	PRC	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	Arizona	Show Low Muni	Show Low	SOW	24
WESTERN PACIFIC	Arizona	Tucson Int'l	Tucson	TUS	134
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Arcata	Arcata/Eureka	ACV	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Chico Muni	Chico	CIC	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Fresno Yosemite Int'l	Fresno	FAT	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Jack McNamara Fld	Crescent City	CEC	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Long Beach/ Daugherty Fld	Long Beach	LGB	1234
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Meadows Fld	Bakersfield	BFL	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Monterey Peninsula	Monterey	MRY	134
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Ontario Int'l	Ontario	ONT	1234
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Oxnard	Oxnard	OXR	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	California	Redding Muni	Redding	RDD	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	Nevada	Elko Muni	Elko	EKO	1
WESTERN PACIFIC	Nevada	McCarran Int'l	Las Vegas	LAS	134

Trigger Codes

1. An air carrier experiences multiple wildlife strikes.
2. An air carrier experiences substantial damage from striking wildlife.
3. An air carrier experiences an engine ingestion of wildlife.
4. Wildlife of a size, or in numbers, capable of causing an event described in 1-3 above is observed to have access to any airport flight pattern or aircraft movement area.