



US Forest Service Aviation Safety Alert



No. FS 08-01

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Subject: Aviation Safety Awareness

Area of Concern: All Aviation Operations

Distribution: All Aviation Personnel

Discussion: Between Friday July 4 and Sunday July 6, 2008 all aviation personnel are advised to conduct a “**Situational Awareness Briefing**“. The briefing should occur during the first hour of the duty day, and/or during each shift change as personnel come on duty that day.

Background: Region 3 is operating at PL-4 and Region 5 is operating at PL-5 with extensive air operations in support of wildland firefighting activities. There have been several situational awareness and fatigue related incidents reported this week. To reinforce the System Safety accident prevention effort, the Forest Service is recommending this briefing period to increase awareness of the hazards and risks involved, to refresh your attention to risk mitigation, and to assert total commitment to bringing every aviator and firefighter home safely.

Recommendation: You are encouraged to brainstorm and develop additional fixes that work best in your geographic location/situation. These topics, at a minimum, provide a starting point for you to discuss and are taken from trends and program weaknesses identified by the 2008 Aviation Risk Assessments.

- Flight Operations Hazards (CFIT)
- Human Factors (Fatigue)
- Maintenance Concerns
- Acceptance of Risk as Normal Operation
- Pilots should remember the suppressant/retardant delivery mnemonic ASHE;
- Situations that shout Watch
- Pre and Post flight briefings
- Organization; staffed and qualified

Approach **S**peed **H**eight **E**xit

Summary: Questions or concerns should be communicated with your Local/Regional Aviation & Aviation Safety Managers.

The Program Risk Assessments can be accessed through the following website:

http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/av_safety/Systems_Safety/av_risk_mgt/index.html

/s/ Ron Hanks

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Aviation Risk Management and
Training Systems