

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Victim Identification Process

Victim recovery, identification, and death certificate are the responsibility of the medical examiner or coroner in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred. Contact information for the medical examiner is available by contacting the Public Hospital Authority or the Princess Margaret Hospital at (242) 322-2861, 326-8835 or 502-7850.

### Personal Effects

The collection and return of personal effects involved in an accident are shared responsibilities between local law enforcement, the medical examiner or coroner, and the ASI. The complexity and scope of the accident influences the time needed to process and return personal effects. Items including GPS units, cell phones, memory cards, or laptop computers that are retained as evidence during the investigation will be returned to the owner of record after analysis or when the investigation is completed. Inquiries on personal effects can be made to the medical examiner at the numbers above, the Royal Bahamas Police Force or the AAIA.

### Aircraft Wreckage

The ASI has the authority to retain control of, and manage access to the wreckage during the course of the investigation. Family member or survivor inquiries regarding access to wreckage under the control of the AAIA should be directed to the Chief Investigator of Air Accidents.

## Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority

**Ministry of Transport**  
2nd Floor - Manx Corporate Center,  
#45 West Bay Street  
P. O. Box CB-11702  
Nassau, N. P., Bahamas

Tel: 24 hr. (242) 376-1617 or (242) 376-8334  
Office: (242) 397-5513 or (242) 397-5509  
Fax: (242) 327-2192  
[aaid.mota@gmail.com](mailto:aaid.mota@gmail.com)  
[www.baaaid.org](http://www.baaaid.org)



## Aviation Accident Investigation

Information for Families,  
Survivors and Friends



"OUR MISSION - PROMOTING SAFETY IN THE  
AVIATION INDUSTRY"

## WHAT IS THE AAIA

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) is the Bahamas Government's independent voice for advocating aviation safety. It is an independent aviation accident investigation agency charged with investigating and determining the probable cause of all civil aviation accidents and incidents that occur in the Bahamas. The AAIA is not a part of, or affiliated with, the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA), and has no regulatory or enforcement authority. From accident and incident investigations, the AAIA examines evidence to determine probable cause of each accident, after which it works to develop safety improvements aimed at preventing accidents from reoccurring by issuing safety recommendations to regulatory agencies, international and local, as well as industry. Implementation of these recommendations can prevent future accidents or reduce their effects, in terms of injury, loss of life, or damage to property. Additionally, the AAIA participates in investigations conducted by other countries when Bahamas aviation safety interests are involved.

## WHO IS THE AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATOR (ASI)

Assigned by the Chief Investigator of Air Accidents, the Air Safety Investigator (ASI), who in many cases is also assigned the role of Investigator-in-charge (IIC), is responsible for leading the aviation accident investigation, and usually travels to the accident scene to collect information related to the accident. While on scene, the ASI serves as the authorized AAIA spokesperson and manages all aspects of the investigation. The ASI has the discretion to designate party members, who provide qualified technical expertise and participates in the fact finding phase of the investigation. Party members can include representatives from other government agencies, industry, and associations that represent employees, functions, activities and products involved in the accident.

## OVERVIEW

### General Aviation Accident Investigation Overview

Because of the complexity general aviation accidents and the extensive nature of the accident investigation process, a year or more is usually required to complete a factual report and accident brief. If AAIA safety recommendations are issued as a result of an investigation, these recommendations can be issued at any time during the investigation process.

The AAIA aviation accident database is a searchable public resource containing records on individual aviation accidents. Once released by the AAIA, the following investigation documents are available by searching the database.

- The **preliminary report** is a synopsis of initial factual information collected during the on-scene phase of the investigation. This report is typically available within 5 days after the accident.
- The **factual report** consolidates pertinent factual information collected during the investigation. This report replaces the preliminary report and is usually available a year or more following the accident.
- The **accident brief** provides an analysis of the factual information and describes the probable cause of the accident. This document is usually available 4 to 6 weeks following the release of the factual report.

Family members and survivors are encouraged to use the AAIA resources described above to obtain information about the accident investigation. These resources are available through the AAIA webpage at <http://www.baaid.org/accidents>



## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The AAIA relies on support from government and local agencies during the on scene phase of the investigation. Organizations present at the accident site may include law enforcement and other emergency response agencies, the BCAA and the Red Cross.

Family assistance information can be organized through the AAIA. The ASI through the AAIA can provide information that may assist family members or survivors during the accident investigation process.

The AAIA as part of its family assistance obligations is mandated to provide updates to family and survivors on the progress of the accident investigation and the expected time of factual report release.

## CRISIS COUNSELING SERVICES

Short-term Crisis Counseling assistance is available at no cost to family members, friends and survivors of an accident through the Bahamas Red Cross, John F. Kennedy Drive. They can be contacted at (242) 323-7370.

## FAMILY OF FOREIGN CITIZENS

The United States Embassy and other respective States embassies or counselors secures translation and communication services, provides official notification to respective foreign governments, assists with visa services, and facilitates consular services for families of foreign citizens involved in an accident.

*It is not a function of the AAID to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings.*