



Tel: (242) 397-5509, 5513, 5514, 5520  
24 hr. Mobile: (242) 376-1617, (242) 376-8334  
Fax: (242) 327-2192  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Manx Corporate Center  
#45 West Bay Street  
P. O. Box CB-11702  
Nassau, N. P., Bahamas  
Website: [www.baaid.org](http://www.baaid.org)  
Email: [baaid@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:baaid@bahamas.gov.bs)

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21<sup>st</sup> July, 2020

Mr. Niko Davis  
Chief Superintendent  
Airport Authority  
Family Island Airport Division (Operations)  
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mr. Davis:

**REF: Serious Safety Concern at Black Point Exuma (MYEB) (SR20-00010)**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, the AAIA was informed via its Voluntary Confidential Reporting system, of a serious hazard that exists at the Black Point Airport (MYEB), Exuma, Bahamas, that has the potential to jeopardize safety and endanger lives.

The fire extinguisher unit on wheels that is stationed at MYEB had its last inspection during the month of March 2014, (see photos below). Based on the tag affixed to the bottle, it appears that recertification must occur each year. That being the case, it appears as though this fire extinguisher bottle has not been inspected or recertified for more than 6 years.

MYEB is an airport that is used predominantly for scheduled passenger service by a certified Bahamas Air Operator, among other private flights that use the facility. AAIA accident data shows that within the last ten (10) months, there has been two accidents at MYEB involving an AOC holder:

- 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 Beechcraft 99 C6-FLI, six (6) souls on board
- 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 Beechcraft 99 C6-FER, fourteen (14) souls on board

Had either of the above mentioned accidents required the use of the fire extinguisher stationed at that airport, it is quite possible that the equipment could have been inoperable, or malfunctioned while in use due to its lack of servicing and inspection. This deficiency is cause for great concern and requires immediate attention as the results can be catastrophic if left unaddressed. In addition to issuing this urgent safety recommendation, the AAIA would like to know the following:

- What mechanism does the Airport Authority (FIAD) utilize to ensure that fire extinguishers located at its aerodromes are inspected and serviced as required?
- What is the policy of the Airport Authority (FIAD) relative to ensuring individuals stationed at aerodromes are periodically trained in the use of fire-fighting equipment?
- Are other stakeholders stationed at aerodromes (Police, customs, etc.), briefed or trained by the Airport Authority (FIAD) in the use of fire extinguisher equipment, so as to provide a source of assistance in the event of injury/incapacitation of primary airport authority personnel?

These are all very serious concerns that has been raised and needs to be addressed immediately. The AAIA trust the FIAD would institute proactive measures to ensure that serious oversights of this nature

# Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority

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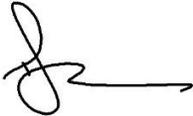
does not occur in the future, as such possible equipment and /or manpower failures, at critical times, can be disastrous for the entity that requires it.

The AAIA requests a response from your organization immediately including a plan of action to address this most urgent safety concern. In addressing this safety recommendation please reference SR20-00010 in your correspondence.

Bear in mind this airport is still being used daily and should any delays be encountered in addressing this serious concern, it can have an adverse effect on aerodrome safety in the Bahamas, if serviceable fire-fighting equipment were required and not available when needed. The AAIA also trust that in light of this serious oversight uncovered, that the FIAD will move to immediately ensure all other airports under its remit has serviceable firefighting equipment.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Regards



Delvin R. Major  
Chief Investigator

Cc: Mr. Milo B. Butler III – General Manager Airport Authority  
Hon. Dionisio D’Aguilar – Minister of Tourism & Aviation  
Capt. Charles B. Beneby – Dir. General BCAA  
Mr. Algernon Cargill – Director of Aviation

