

Safety Recommendations

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk

Date: February 6, 2019

In reply refer to: SI-18-00040

Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar
Minister
Tourism and Aviation
#1 West Bay Street
Nassau, N. P., Bahamas

The Air Accident Investigation Department is mandated by the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation to investigate and determine probable causes of air transportation accidents and incidents, issue safety recommendations¹ to prevent similar accidents or incidents from occurring, study transportation safety issues and evaluate the safety effectiveness of agencies and stakeholders involved in air transportation.

We are providing the following information to urge your organization to take action on the safety recommendations in this letter. The AAID is vitally interested in any action taken on these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives.

The recommendations contained here involves runway conditions, crash and rescue readiness and emergency personnel availability at the Rock Sound International Airport in Rock Sound Eleuthera, Bahamas. These recommendations are derived from the AAID's investigation of the accident involving a Cessna C421B aircraft (file number A18-000009), which occurred on 5th June, 2018, at Rock Sound Int'l Airport, Rock Sound Eleuthera, Bahamas. These recommendations are supported by the evidence that were found and the analysis performed.

While the conditions that are the focus of these recommendations were not directly contributory to the accident investigated, they were identified as safety concerns that can have a serious impact on other aircraft using this airport and the serious consequences a future accident or incident can have if the conditions identified are not rectified in a timely manner.

As a result of this investigation, the following findings were made and recommendations are made to the Minister with responsibility for Aviation for corrective action:

Findings:

- While there are 2 – 300 pound fire extinguishing bottles positioned at the terminal, there are no vehicle(s) to transport the fire bottles to any other area of the ramp or the runway surface area. Adequate means of transportation is vital should an accident or incident requiring firefighting assistance occur and these extinguishing bottles are required.

¹ In accordance with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation, International Standards and Recommended Practices, Chapter 6, Paragraph 6.8 and the Bahamas Civil Aviation (Investigations of Air Accidents and Incidents) Amendment Regulations 1.460(a) *"At any stage of the investigation of an accident or incident, the AAID shall, in a dated transmittal correspondence recommend to the appropriate authorities, including those in other States, those persons or organizations of the aviation community that have a direct interest in the safety issue that was the basis for the safety recommendation as well as to other members of the aviation community who would benefit from the information, any preventive action that the AAID considers necessary to be taken promptly to enhance aviation safety."*

- The fire truck stationed at the airport has not been in service for more than 10 years. While aircraft operated by the national flag carrier, (ATR 42 and 72), many corporate jets and other Bahamas scheduled airlines use this airport on a daily basis, (with, in many cases, as many as 70 passengers), it is imperative that some sort of moveable fire extinguishing apparatus be made available.

Recommendation

SI-18-00040

To the Minister of Tourism and Aviation:

Given the financial constraints of the Government of the Bahamas, and the fact that there are 28 government owned airports to manage, the AAID recommends the Government of the Bahamas explore ways to find the funding to ensure that suitable crash and rescue, fire-fighting equipment representative of the size of aircraft these airports accommodate be made available.

Prior to the release of this report the Minister of Tourism and Aviation, on behalf of the government of the Bahamas, responded with the government's position relative to this recommendation stating that "the Government of the Bahamas is well along the way to securing funding from the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) to assist in the acquisition of new, much needed firefighting equipment for some of the Family Island Airports."

This response is classified "**Open – Acceptable Response.**"²

As a result of this investigation, the AAID has issued eight (8) safety recommendations; these recommendations, based on the conditions noted above, were addressed specifically to the entity that has the responsibility to take corrective action(s) and are listed here for informational purposes.

- (2) recommendations are addressed to the Safety Oversight Department (SOD) of the BCAA;
- (5) recommendations are addressed to the Airport Authority (AA); and
- (1) recommendation is addressed to the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation (MOTA)

The AAID thanks you for your timely response and will track the progress on actions taken to address this recommendation. Should your corrective action be accomplished prior to the AAID follow-up inquiry on the status of implementation, please feel free to advise us.

Regards



Delvin R. Major
Chief Investigator of Air Accidents

² **Open – Acceptable Response** – Response by recipient indicates a planned action that would comply with the safety recommendation when completed.