



Department of the Interior

Lessons Learned



No. DOI LL 11-01

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Subject: Aircraft Rental Agreement Contracts

Area of Concern: Flight Operations

Distribution: All Aviation Activities

Discussion: On August 21, 2010 a float configured airplane departed from a river camp inside the Katmai National Park in Alaska with three federal employees and one pilot on board. The aircraft was reported overdue to the FAA when it failed to arrive at its destination. An extensive search was conducted by Federal, military and civilian air assets. On September 28, 2010, debris from the aircraft was located on shore approximately 28 miles north-northeast of the river camp.



4 LIVES LOST

Whether you are a passenger or crewmember, safety is paramount. To help ensure your safety, review the *Five Steps To A Safe Flight* (NFES 1399 Orange Card) and *Twelve Standard Aviation Questions That Shout Out "Watch Out!"* (NFES 1129 Blue Card) with the aircrew and other passengers before getting on an aircraft. If you feel uncomfortable or have serious doubts, seek additional information as you possess the ability to refuse or curtail the flight. Never let undue pressure (expressed or implied) influence your judgment.

Five Steps To A Safe Flight

1. Pilot /Aircraft Data Card – Approved & Current
2. Flight Plan / Flight Following Initiated
3. PPE in Use When Required
4. Pilot Briefed on Mission & Flight Hazards
5. Crew & Passenger Briefing to Include:
 - Aircraft Hazards
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - Seat Belt & Harness
 - Fuel & Electrical Shut-off
 - ELT & Survival Kit
 - Oxygen Equipment
 - First Aid Kit
 - Emergency Egress
 - Gear & Cargo Security
 - Smoking

(Not Under Seats)

FS 5700-16 (OAS-103) April 97
NFES 1399

Twelve Standard Aviation Questions That Shout "Watch Out!"

1. Is this flight necessary?
2. Who is in charge?
3. Are all hazards identified and have you made them known?
4. Should you stop the operation on the flight due to change in conditions?
 - ☐ Communications ☐ Weather ☐ Confusion
 - ☐ Turbulence ☐ Personnel ☐ Conflicting Priorities
5. Is there a better way to do it?
6. Are you driven by an overwhelming sense of urgency?

NFES 1129 (1998)

The aircraft was operating under a DOI Aircraft Rental Agreement (ARA). An ARA is an instrument that allows bureaus to arrange their own point-to-point transportation with an AMD approved vendor. AMD ensures the vendor is appropriately certificated by the FAA under Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 135 operations and that the pilots possess the appropriate FAA certificate(s).

It is important for management to know what requirements are listed in the contract since they may be more restrictive than Part 135 requirements. As an aviation manager or supervisor, you are responsible for ensuring that aviation operations are planned, coordinated and that a proper risk management assessment has been conducted. Mission type, weather, flight following, and PPE are basic components to every flight. Managing aviation operations often requires much more attention to detail and involvement than some may believe as it is often mistaken as “just another collateral duty”. It requires active, not passive management since lives are at stake.

FINANCIALS

Aircraft Damage	\$ 350,000 (est)
Search Ops	\$ 2,000,000 (est)
Personnel	\$12,530,800
Loss of availability	\$ Unknown
NPS Investigation	\$ 39,050 (est)
AMD Investigative Costs	\$ 5,000 (est)
Total	\$14,924,850 (est)

Know Before You Go !



/s/ Keith C. Raley

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