



## STAY SHARP, STAY SKILLED

### *Your Tools for Continued Learning*



Aviation maintenance technicians (AMTs) work in a challenging field. Doing the job requires AMTs to not only master the mechanical skills and knowledge needed to maintain older aircraft, but to also learn new technical skills to troubleshoot, diagnose, and repair the composites and complex electronic equipment found in more modern aircraft. Although AMTs primarily acquire job skills through a combination of initial training, certifications, and on-the-job experience, recurrent training is essential.

You will be happy to learn that there are valuable, no-cost resources available online that AMTs can use to enhance their skills, knowledge, and proficiency. Take a look at, and take advantage of, the information in the following websites.

#### **1. [FAASafety.gov](https://www.faa.gov)**

FAASafety.gov is a premier source for free AMT continuing education programs and recurrent training. On the homepage under Maintenance Hangar, you'll find everything

from safety presentations and online courses, to safety tips, references, and regulatory resources. Check out the accredited AMT Awards Program where you can earn an AMT Certificate of Training in a bronze, silver, or gold phase by completing training hours and coursework. The program also awards AMT Employers who support their employees' initial and recurrent training.

On the Maintenance Hangar page, you'll also find a list of approved Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Courses. Click the 'Toolbox' link to see safety tips, maintenance alerts, AMT training courses, and AMT events in your area.

There are 175 instructor-led training activities offered in the Activities tab. You'll see courses on a variety of topics. Some courses require a small fee, but the majority are free of charge and offer AMT credit and/or WINGS credit. To view the list of available courses, click on the Activities, Courses, Seminars, Webinars tab on the homepage. Select Activities from the drop down menu. Next, select Other Activities, AMT, and click Perform Search.

#### **2. Human Factors in Aviation Maintenance**

Since human factors directly cause or contribute to many aviation accidents, the FAA created a website ([bit.ly/HumanFactorsMaint](https://bit.ly/HumanFactorsMaint)) to provide a place where you can learn more about how to recognize and mitigate these challenges in aviation maintenance. The site also has a link to [www.mxfatigue.com](https://www.mxfatigue.com), another online resource to review practical tips about sleep and fatigue management strategies.

#### **3. [FAA.gov/mechanics](https://www.faa.gov/mechanics)**

This link goes to an A-Z web page for overall information on useful topics such as maintenance schools plus A&P test guides, licensing, certification, regulations and technical data, advisories and alerts, and those all-important 337 forms.

Click the link for aircraft safety alerts to get the latest ADs and Special Airworthiness Information Bulletins (SAIBs). Here you can create a malfunction/defect report on a system component or part. If you see something, say something! Your report helps our maintenance community to spot trends and address emerging safety issues.

Other valuable AMT resources include aircraft type clubs and aviation maintenance-related associations like the AMT Society, the Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA), and the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA). These organizations offer a host of information on IA renewal, career opportunities, online Q&A forums, training videos, as well as many free webinars. AOPA also offers several maintenance-related safety briefs and reports, as well as some high-quality interactive courses.

Aviation safety begins on the ground and in the hangar. It is important for every AMT to take a personal interest in continued learning to improve safety, enhance your skills, and maintain your proficiency in today's aviation maintenance industry.

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