



# AV News Update

Specially prepared for FAA Team Members by FAA Aviation News

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## FAA ISSUES NPRM ON SPORT PILOT RULE

On April 15, 2008, the FAA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding pilots and flight instructors with a sport pilot rating. The proposed changes are intended to address airman certification issues that have arisen since the regulations for the operation of light-sport aircraft were implemented in 2004.

The NPRM is available at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/08-1127.pdf>. Instructions how to comment on the NPRM are included in the document. Comments must be received by August 13, 2008.

## NTSB RELEASES 2007 AVIATION ACCIDENT STATISTICS

On April 16, 2008, the National Transportation Safety Board released preliminary aviation accident statistics for 2007. The Safety Board's aviation accident statistics show that in 2007, there were 24 nonfatal accidents involving Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 airlines. One nonscheduled part 121 aircraft fatality occurred when a mechanic was killed while working on a Boeing 737.

No fatalities occurred among 14 CFR part 135 commuter operators. However, on-demand (charters, air taxis, air tours and medical services when a patient is on board) part 135 operations reported 43 fatalities (62 accidents, 14 fatal accidents), up from the 16 fatalities that occurred in 2006.

While the overall number of general aviation accidents rose from 1,518 in 2006 to 1,631 in 2007, the number of fatalities in 2007 was down from 703 to 491 (a 30 percent decrease), making it the lowest annual total in more than 40 years. The 2007 statistical tables are found at <http://www.nts.gov/aviation/Stats.htm>.

## FAA RELEASES FACT SHEET ON ASDE-X

On April 7, 2008, FAA released a fact sheet on Airport Surface Detection Equipment, Model

X (ASDE-X), a new runway-safety tool. As airports have grown busier over the years, the potential for collisions on airport runways and taxiways has increased as well. To combat the impact of this trend, the FAA is deploying ASDE-X. ASDE-X enables air traffic controllers to detect potential runway conflicts by providing detailed coverage of movement on runways and taxiways. By collecting data from a variety of sources, ASDE-X is able to track vehicles and aircraft on the airport movement area and obtain identification information from aircraft transponders. More information at: [http://www.faa.gov/news/factsheets/news\\_story.cfm?newsId=6296](http://www.faa.gov/news/factsheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=6296)

## FAA TO INSTALL RUNWAY SAFETY WARNING SYSTEM AT BOSTON LOGAN

Technology that warns pilots about potential runway safety hazards will be installed and tested at Boston Logan International Airport under a partnership between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). The test system will be installed in November 2009, and testing will begin the following month, a full two years ahead of the planned national program deployment.

The system, called Runway Status Lights, uses a series of red lights embedded in the pavement to warn pilots if it is unsafe to cross over or enter a runway. Boston will be the first location in the country to test Runway Status Lights for intersecting runways. For more information please see: [http://www.faa.gov/news/press\\_releases/news\\_story.cfm?newsId=10206](http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/news_story.cfm?newsId=10206).

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