

Illinois *FAAS*Team Aviation Maintenance Newsletter Fall 2009

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Airline Representatives Attend
Industry Work Group Meeting
Chicago IL

Airline Towing Operations under National Safety Review

The rising cost of aviation fuel has resulted in tight operating margins that require airlines to boost net operating revenue by cutting fuel costs. Airlines favor towing as an efficient and cost saving measure to move aircraft around busy airports.

Springfield FSDO to Focus on Agriculture Operations Safety

Agriculture operations have become an increased risk in Illinois with a rising number of accidents and incidents. Many of these are attributed to overweight takeoffs. The Springfield FSDO will form a work group with the Fargo North Dakota FSDO to help mitigate these risks. The FAA Safety Team will provide awareness training as a result of the collaboration.



AMT Awards– Now Online!

The Aviation Maintenance Technician Awards Program is now online. There are also some new changes to the program. There will be no longer a need to mail in your application and there are now 3 award phases. Please visit FAASafety.gov for more information and instructions on how to enroll in the program.

Air Wisconsin receives AMT Diamond Award at Oshkosh

The Aviation Maintenance Technician Award (AMT) was presented to Air Wisconsin Airlines in July 2009 at the FAA Center in Oshkosh. AWA CEO and President, Jim Rankin received the award presented by the National FAA Safety Team Asst. Mgr. Phil Randall. The Chicago O'Hare FSDO Manager Gerry Martinez and Principal Inspectors were also present in support of the airlines accomplishment.



FAA Safety Team and Runway Safety Organize National Work Group Focusing on Towing Best Practices

Representatives from several major airlines and industry members will meet again for the 3rd time in Chicago in November to discuss lessons learned from towing operation safety. The FAA Safety Team is coordinating with The Office of Runway Safety to mitigate risks associated with towing hazards. The groups focus is on tow vehicle identification, communication, visibility and best practices. Several changes at Chicago's O'Hare airport have already been made to reduce towing related incidents and accidents.

Illinois Aviation Technician Award Candidates Sought

The Illinois FAAS*T*eam is looking for nominations for maintenance technicians, avionics technicians, and FAAS*T*eam Representative of the year awards. Nominations should be received by no later than October 31, 2009. Please e-mail timothy.i.sokol@faa.gov with your nominations.

The idea makes sense from an economic standpoint, but are the operations safe? Movement of aircraft at night without lights, tow vehicle operator qualifications, English proficiency and communication practices have hindered public acceptance of the idea because of the increased number of runway incursions and incidents.



American Airlines employee Shawn Benson explains towing operations to FAA Executives Paul Friedman and Ed Jarvis, and FAASafety Program Manager Tim Sokol

"The increased risk is proportionate to the rising demand" says Ed Jarvis National Advisor to the Director of Runway Safety. Jarvis believes that the FAA and Industry needs to take a System Safety Approach together to further reduce the risk.

There are also safety concerns with the operation of tractors themselves. "It likes driving down the road with a heavy load behind you without trailer brakes" says one concerned operator.

The FAA is now revisiting towing regulations and guidance, especially at busy airports to see if there are any changes required in the interest of public safety. A national work group was formed by the Illinois FAASafety Team in coordination with the National Office of Runway Safety to also review Towing Best Practices

Quick Links

[Our Website](http://www.Faasafety.gov)

<http://www.Faasafety.gov>

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2010 Inspection Authorization Renewal Seminars Planned

The DuPage FSDO and Springfield FSDO are planning to each have one IA renewal seminar in 2010.

DuPage – January 30th 1 day 8 hours, Itasca, exact location TBD

Springfield - March 4-5 2 days 16 hours, Springfield Illinois Fairgrounds

All IAs are encouraged to register at FAASafety.gov to receive detailed information and e-mail notifications of these seminars and other maintenance related events.

Become an Airworthiness FAA Safety Team Representative

The Illinois FAA Safety Team is looking to recruit applicants to assist with promoting maintenance safety within the state of Illinois. If you have the talent for public speaking or just want to assist in safety seminars, then we want you! Interested persons need to register and apply online at FAASafety.gov. There are some exciting new airworthiness products currently available with much more under development.



Please visit FAASafety.gov for more information and instructions on how to apply.

Local FAASafety Team Representative Receives National Aviation Safety Award

Mark Terrell American Airlines, Chicago ORD Manager of Maintenance and Engineering Training received the FAA Aviation Safety Award for his contribution to safe towing operations. Mark provided a masterful presentation group of airlines and industry members in Chicago.

Congratulations Mark!



Aviation Articles Wanted!

If you are interested in having your article published here, please contact the Illinois FAASafety Team Representative Tim Sokol at: timothy.j.sokol@faa.gov

