

SAFECOM and reporting cultures

Aviation is an industry with high risk operations in a dynamic environment.

Throughout the world, aviation is adopting Safety Management System (SMS) as a way towards enhancing safety. A key element of any SMS is hazard identification and reporting as a way to promote lessons learned and prevent future accidents.

Field personnel, vendors and Agency, often have the best perspective on the hazards of land management aviation operations. You are the ones who can prevent accidents by sharing your experiences.



In the late 1990's, land management agencies developed an internet-based electronic system for aviation users to report their concerns– the SAFECOM system.

Submitting a SAFECOM is not a substitute for on the spot corrections to a safety concern. It is a tool used to identify, document, track and correct safety related issues.

The SAFECOM system is not intended to be a punitive. Agency policy is in place to provide guidance to managers on how to use the reports.

Once a SAFECOM is submitted, the Regional/State Aviation Safety Manager and the Unit/Forest Aviation Manager are notified via e-mail.

www.safecom.gov

What to report

Things that have the potential to cause an aviation mishap.

- *Conditions*
- *Observations*
- *Acts*
- *Maintenance problems*
- *Circumstances*



If we do not know what the hazards are, we cannot mitigate them and prevent the next accident.

How to report

- File on the web site
www.safecom.gov
- Fax to the Aviation Safety Manager

Who can report

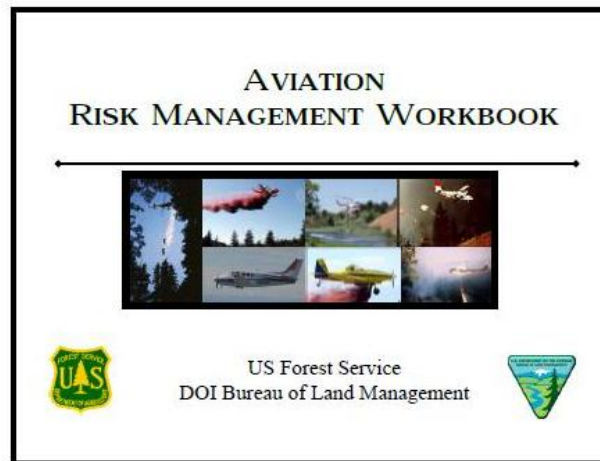
Anybody

- Firefighters
- Dispatchers
- Pilots
- Resource Managers
- Vendors
- Management



What happens after I report?

The Aviation Safety Manager will follow up on reported concerns to the level required of the situation. Some reports will provide their value in trending, while others can expect immediate changes in how we operate. The key value to the system is getting the lesson out to others without fear of punitive actions.



Safety Promotion

The National offices of both the Forest Service and Department of the Interior use the SAFECOM database to develop Safety Alerts, Lessons Learned, Technical Bulletins, Accident Prevention Bulletins and SAFECOM safety summaries to fully distribute and promote the lessons from the field. Changes to contracts, best practices and operational guides have come from field identified hazard reports through the SAFECOM system.

The responsible
thing to do

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