

Government Agencies Involved in Air Medical Services Oversight

There are 2 government agencies that play an important part in the oversight of the Air Medical industry. The Federal Government agencies tasked with this duty are; FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), and NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board).

The mission of the FAA is to provide the safest, most efficient airspace system in the world. The FAA dates back to The Air Commerce Act of May 20, 1926. In 1967 the FAA became one of several model organizations within the Department of Transportation and received its new name.

The FAA has many activities and responsibilities in the Aviation industry. One of the most important and evident is the promotion, development, and management of Safety in the Aviation community. The roles and responsibilities of the FAA can be easily compared to that of your State DMV and State Police combined. The agency is tasked with registering aircraft, and certifying pilots, to mention a few.

The FAA also issues FARs (Federal Aviation Regulations). Of these regulations, two items that are very important to the Air Medical Industry are Part 91 and Part 135. Part 91 pertains to general operating and flight rules which must be adhered to by all aircraft. Part 135 is specifically for air taxi and commercial operators, which include most Air Medical Service providers. Part 135 regulations are more restrictive than Part 91 regulations.

The FAA also operates and maintains ATCCs (Air Traffic Control Centers), and FSS (Flight Service Station). These facilities provide pilots with current weather conditions and the status of restricted airspace and military operation areas.

Another agency that plays an important role in the Air Medical industry is the NTSB.

The NTSB is an independent Federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the US. They also investigate accidents in other modes of transportation as well. The agency began operation in 1967 and relied on the US Department of Transportation. However in 1975 under the Independent Safety Board Act, the NTSB became an agency of its own.

Since it began the NTSB has investigated more than 124,000 aviation accidents. The agency does not regulate transportation equipment, personnel or operation. It also does not initiate enforcement action. The agency's reputation for impartiality and thoroughness has enabled it to achieve great success in shaping transportation safety improvements. Over 82% of the NTSB's recommendations have been adopted by those in a position to effect change. Many safety features currently incorporated in aircraft had their beginning in an NTSB recommendation. One recommendation that has been embraced by many Air Medical Service providers is CRM (crew resource management) for crews.



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Quiz

1. The FAA dates back to _____.
 - a. The Air Act of 1904
 - b. The Airplane Club Act of 1959
 - c. The Air Commerce Act of 1926
 - d. The Air Safety Act of 1925

2. The FAA is currently part of _____.
 - a. The Department of Justice
 - b. The Department of Commerce
 - c. The Department of Transportation
 - d. The Department of Air Force

3. ATCCs or Air Traffic Control Centers are operated and maintained by _____.
 - a. The FHA
 - b. The FBI
 - c. The FFA
 - d. The FAA

4. Federal Aviation Regulations Part 135 is _____ than Part 91 regulations.
 - a. less restrictive
 - b. no more restrictive
 - c. easier to deal with
 - d. more restrictive

5. The initials FAA stand for _____.
 - a. Federal Airspace Administration
 - b. Funded Airplane Apparatus
 - c. Federal Aero medical Administration
 - d. Federal Aviation Administration

6. Since it began the NTSB as investigated more than 124,000 _____.
 - a. bicycle accidents
 - b. aviation accidents
 - c. jet ski accidents
 - d. commuter train accidents

7. In 1975 the NTSB became its own agency under the _____.
 - a. Air Commerce Act
 - b. Prohibition Act
 - c. 21st Amendment
 - d. Independent Safety Board Act

8. The NTSB is a Federal agency responsible for investigating every _____ in the US.
- a. military accident
 - b. civil aviation accident
 - c. law enforcement accident
 - d. traffic accident
9. Over _____ of the NTSB's recommendations have been adopted by those in a position to effect change
- a. 1,000,000
 - b. 95%
 - c. 500,000
 - d. 82%
10. The NTSB is an enforcement agency for aviation and transportation regulations.
- a. True
 - b. False

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