



“To Promote the Science and Improve the Methods of Aviation Fire Protection and Prevention”

September 9, 2018

Robert L. Sumwalt III
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Chairman Sumwalt:

The Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Working Group (ARFFWG) has completed our research regarding the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) letter, dated July 16, 2014. The letter contained specific recommendations from the accident involving a Boeing 777-200ER, Korean registration HL7742, operating as Asiana Airlines flight 214, that occurred on July 6, 2013, at San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco, California.

Within the letter there were four safety recommendations made specifically to the ARFFWG:

A-14-58

Work with the Federal Aviation Administration and equipment manufactures to develop and distribute more specific policies and guidance about when, how, and where to use the high-reach extendable turret's unique capabilities.

A-14-59

Work with medical and medicolegal professional organizations to develop and distribute guidance on task prioritization for responding aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) personnel that includes recommended best practices to avoid striking or rolling over seriously injured or deceased persons with ARFF vehicles in a mass casualty situation.

A-14-60

Develop a minimum aircraft rescue and firefighting staffing level that would allow exterior firefighting and rapid entry into an airplane to perform interior firefighting and rescue of passengers and crewmembers.

A-14-61

Develop and distribute, in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration, guidance and training material to ensure that all airport and mutual aid firefighting officers placed in command at the scene of an aircraft accident have at least a minimum level of aircraft rescue and firefighting training.

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The ARFFWG believes there is potential for improvement within the industry in each of the four recommendations, which would assist in the prevention of accidents and save lives. In order to thoroughly identify prospective enhancements, the ARFFWG conducted a collaborative applied research endeavor between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the ARFFWG.

Each of the four NTSB recommendations were completed as separate and distinct research projects, supported by a specialized committee. Committee membership was supervised by joint chairs from the ARFFWG and the FAA and comprised of subject matter experts who contributed valuable knowledge and experience to each of the recommendations.

A comprehensive ARFFWG response comprised of each committee's final research reports is attached. We are confident this information is thorough, and the recommendations are solid solutions to address each of the concerns. Each report will be presented to the ARFFWG membership at our annual conference on September 17, 2018.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason P. Graber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal line at the top.

Jason Graber
Chairman, ARFF Working Group