



SAFETY ALERT 12/2016

Issued: 1st November 2016

SUBJECT:

Operational Readiness of the Rescue and Fire Fighting Service

REFERENCE PUBLICATION:

CAR Part XI, Section 8
CAR Part XI, Section 14
CAR Part XI, Appendix 2
CAR Part XI, Appendix 4

CATEGORY:

Recommendation/Attention

REASON:

Observed trend of audit non-compliance with aerodrome certification requirements.

APPLICABILITY:

All UAE Aerodrome RFFS Post Holders

DESCRIPTION:

The principal objective of a Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (RFFS) is to save lives. The most important factors bearing on effective rescue in a survivable aircraft accident are:

- (i) the training received;
- (ii) the effectiveness of the equipment; and
- (iii) the speed with which personnel and equipment designated for rescue and firefighting purposes can be put into use.

The GCAA has safety concerns relating to operational readiness of RFFS and the need to review the Structured Learning Programme (SLP) and Maintenance of Competency (MOC) of RFFS Personnel.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

To strengthen the operational readiness of RFFS, the GCAA recommends the following:

1. Review and implement a robust Management of Change Process for the introduction of new technology in rescue and fire fighting vehicles and equipment.
2. Review and ensure all RFFS Operational Commanders and Crew Commanders are well trained and competent in Incident Command and Control principles with emphasis on application of Dynamic Risk Assessment and deployment of tactics/techniques.
3. Review and establish mutual-aid cooperation and joint-training with local Civil Defence agencies to enhance command, control, coordination and communication during an aviation emergency.
4. Review the current Structured Learning Programme and Maintenance of Competency to ensure all Operational RFFS personnel are sufficiently subjected to controlled training scenarios taking into account the type of climatic conditions that they are likely to be working under.
5. Re-assess water needs requirement for a worst case accident scenario involving the largest aircraft operating in the aerodrome.
6. Review the frequency and ensure all operational fire-fighters and officers to undertake realistic (hot) fire training commensurate with the hazards and risks on their aerodrome. Focusing on firefighting media application techniques (Application of Foam) and dual media tactics (Water and Dry Powder).

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