
Urgent Safety Recommendation

Date: May 22, 2019

In reply refer to: SI-19-00015

Captain Charles Beneby
Director General
Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority
JL Center, Blake Road
Nassau, N. P., Bahamas

The Air Accident Investigation Department (AAID) is an independent accident investigation authority mandated by the Government of the Bahamas with investigating aviation accidents and incidents and determining their probable cause. Based on investigation findings recommendations are made to prevent similar accidents or incidents from occurring.

We are providing the following information to urge your organization to take action on the safety recommendation in this letter. The AAID is vitally interested in any action taken on these recommendation(s) because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives.

This recommendation addresses the need for adequate inspections of aerodromes to ensure that safety hazards are identified and mitigated. The following recommendation is derived from the AAID's investigation in relation to aircraft C6-IRM which received damages as a result of foreign object debris (FOD) on May 15, 2019 after landing on runway 09 at the New Bight Airport, Cat Island (file number A19-000017). This recommendation is supported by the evidence found during our investigation.

Our investigation also revealed an accumulation of loose pea rock (FOD) present on the runway and ramp area at the New Bight Airport. As a result of the damages this aircraft sustained due to FOD, the following **urgent** recommendation is being made to the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA):

SI-19-00015

The AAID recommends the BCAA establish a plan or enhance its current plan to ensure adequate oversight and surveillance of all aerodromes under its surveillance obligation. The BCAA must make certain that entities with operational control of the aerodromes are in compliance with their operational responsibilities to ensure hazards, when identified, are mitigated in a timely manner. Identification and mitigation of safety hazards is paramount to avoid reoccurrence.

As the presence of FOD at this airport is a serious safety concern which poses the risk of damage to the aircraft or injury to persons, the AAID would appreciate a response from the BCAA within 30 days addressing the actions taken to implement this recommendation.

In your response to the recommendation in this letter, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. If you need additional information you may call 397-5513 or 397-5509.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Delvin R. Major
Chief Investigator of Air Accidents

Cc: Mrs. Juliea Brathwaite-Rolle – Manager Safety Oversight Department - BCAA
Mr. Algernon Cargill - Director of Aviation – Tourism and Aviation