Washington State Department of Transportation

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report
October 2007

Search for Missing Plane Ends in Tragedy

WSDOT Attends Community Airports Association Fall Conference

U.S. Customs May Require More Advanced Approval for G.A. Aircraft Crossing US / Canadian Border

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Early Birds Get Registered

Search for Missing Plane Ends in Tragedy

On Tuesday, October 9, rescuers confirmed that all 10 people aboard a crashed Cessna 208 aircraft were found deceased. The aircraft had been missing since Sunday night, October 7 after leaving Boise, Idaho for Shelton, Washington. Ground teams found the wreckage on Monday night after a day of extensive searching by air and ground.

WSDOT and the assistant coroner met privately with the victims' families at the White Pass Lodge to answer questions and discuss the recovery efforts.

At a Tuesday morning press conference WSDOT and other emergency personnel confirmed that a strong fuel smell and radar data led searchers to the wreckage. The crash site is estimated to span a 100 feet by 60 feet area.

Participants in the search included WSDOT, Yakima County Search and Rescue, Washington Air Search and Rescue, Tacoma Mountain Rescue, Seattle Mountain Rescue, Pierce County, King County, the Office of Emergency Management, Fort Lewis Rangers and the Red Cross.

The National Transportation Safety Board is currently leading the recovery efforts and investigation.

WSDOT Attends Community Airports Association Fall Conference

WSDOT Aviation's Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, and Senior Planner, John Shambaugh attended the Washington State Community Airports Association Fall Conference in Wenatchee in October. The two presented updates on Aviation's programs including the Airport Land Use Compatibility Program, Long-Term Air Transportation Study, Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual, Airport Information System, and Local Airport Aid program. The two also presented and distributed copies of Aviation's newly published *Washington State Airport Reference Guide,* which received kudos and accolades from the airport sponsors. Also in attendance was WSDOT Environmental Service's Archeologist, Dean Weaver, who presented on Cultural Resources and the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order 05-05. WSDOT Aviation thanks Dean for taking time out of his weekend to help educate Washington's airport managers on the importance of including cultural resources as a component of their projects.

U.S. Customs May Require More Advanced Approval for G.A. Aircraft Crossing US / Canadian Border

Homeland Security is considering a change in policy that would require advanced notification of border crossing only via an electronic transmission before approving. The aviation community is opposing this change for the obvious reason that computer access is not available on all routes across the border. Many questions have not been answered:

If a pilot or passenger name should appear on the "*No Fly*" list, what process will be used and how long will it take the Customs and Border Protection (CPB) to resolve?
What procedure will be used for those transiting Canadian airspace enroute from the United States to Alaska?
How much time prior to the 60-minute departure or arrival time requirement can a pilot submit the information to CBP?
What is the proposed turnaround time for the request to be approved?
What backup process will be used should the CBP internet service not be available?
The states most affected are located along the Canadian border and have until November 19 to comment.

Study Advisory Group Provides Feedback on WSDOT-Managed Airports

WSDOT Aviation's Study Advisory Committee met for a second time in October to provide feedback on the division's planning efforts for its 17 state-operated airports. The purpose of this second meeting was to discuss two working papers and final recommendations prepared by WSDOT's consultant team.

Committee members reviewed recommended policies and procedures for the state airports, discussed facility needs for various categories of airports, and examined proposed best practices for day-to-day airport maintenance and operations. This was the final meeting of the committee;
WSDOT and its consultant team will finalize project documents based on this feedback and make the report available for public review and comment after the first of the year.

Early Birds Get Registered

Every January, WSDOT collects aircraft registration as required by state law. This year, WSDOT will attempt to collect 5,746 registration renewals, as well as make first time contact with owners of 519 different aircraft in the state.

In November, WSDOT will send out an email reminder to about 3,200 aircraft owners already registered in our system. The email will give people more notice about registering, and cut down on WSDOT's printing and mailing costs. On November 15, 2007, WSDOT will mail out 519 letters to new aircraft owners in the state. Those registering for the first time will receive full instructions on how to complete the registration process. All will receive invoices and exemption forms.

On December 4, 2007, WSDOT will mail a friendly aircraft renewal letter to approximately 5,200 aircraft owners *(depending on how many people register early)* asking them to renew their 2008 registrations.