

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

SAFETY ALERT

No. 00-09

August 25, 2000

Subject:

Passenger Briefings

Distribution:

All DOI Aviation Activities


Discussion: This office has received several inquiries from pilots and passengers regarding preflight briefings and the roles and responsibilities of passengers during the flight. It is up to the pilot to determine how much assistance he requires of a passenger but under no circumstances may that assistance include manipulating the flight controls. Pilots should always brief passengers to remain clear of the controls, especially the heel brakes in tandem aircraft. However, we do encourage pilots to allow passengers to take an active role in assisting the pilot with other safety of flight issues such as pointing out traffic, monitoring proper landing gear position and monitoring fuel status. Not only will this ease the pilot's workload, but in some cases it can assist in preventing mishaps.

Recommendations:

1. Passengers who become aware of a safety of flight issue should immediately report it to the pilot, regardless of whether or not they have been briefed.
2. If the pilot does not give you a preflight briefing, ask for one.
3. If the pilot does not ask for your assistance, offer it.

If you have any questions regarding this subject please contact your OAS Area/Regional office:

Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage)	907-271-3700
East Area Office (Atlanta)	770-458-7474
West Area Office (Boise)	208-334-9310
West Area Office (Phoenix)	602-640-2633


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