

## ABSTRACT

Air medical aircraft are crashing. Pilots who fly for EMS are under incredible pressure. Critics have a variety of suggestions for reducing or eliminating crashes and often the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) blames the pilot for the crash. Pilots, however, have had little chance to respond to these charges.

We propose a confidential internet based survey of pilots, asking them to share specifics of their experience, with knowledge of attitudes about, and suggestions for, safe flight. Members of the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) research committee developed the survey instrument. The survey utilizes many of the questions asked in the survey sponsored by HAI & NEMSPA (2001). This survey has been revised to make analysis of the responses more conclusive and has been launched July 29, 2005. The AAMS Board, AMSAC, and NEMSPA have approved the survey.

The 89-item survey will be available via special access code through the AAMS office onto the zoomerang web site until September 30, 2005. The survey has been designed and organized into 7 sections (demographics, training, safety culture, facilities & equipment, maintenance, job satisfaction, and finding solutions). Using demographic data as an independent variable, it will then be possible to use the remaining six sections as the dependent variables to test hypotheses concerning safety.

Initial results of this survey will be presented at the Spring 2006 AAMS meeting. We expect to help the pilots voice their suggestions for safer flight to move the air medical community toward "vision zero."