

ABSTRACT

In 2005, the Pilot Safety Study Group (PSSG) consisting of members of the Association of Air Medical Services Research Committee wrote, delivered and analyzed a survey of helicopter pilots regarding their knowledge, attitude and perspectives on safety in the field of air medical transport. The survey was based on another survey- one that was sponsored by HAI and NEMPSA and given to pilots in 2001. The Pilot Safety Survey 2005 pared questions down so that the survey could be taken in 15 minutes and the answers organized in a manner that simplified analysis. The survey was approved by the AAMS Board of Directors, AMSAC, and NEMPSA.

The information gathered indicated that HEMS pilots were very experienced and cared about safety. Collectively, they took responsibility for HEMS accidents, citing pushing weather minimums and pilot complacency as main reasons for crashes. Crew resource management (CRM) was well appreciated by the pilots; there appeared to be a positive correlate with programs that offer their employees CRM and the pilots general perspective on safety. The survey was also clear that mission oriented training was desired and that more realistic training in flight simulators would improve safety overall. Finally, a majority of the pilots both desired night vision goggles and/or devices and believed that their usage would improve safety in the field of air medical transport.

This current proposal seeks to expand on the results of the Pilot Safety Survey 2005 by analyzing the essential variables, identified by the PSSG, as determinants of safety. Utilizing multivariate statistical analysis, it is our intent to thoroughly evaluate the following variables: program first priority is safety, program requirement, fatigue, financial pressure, and competition. Understanding the determinants of safety as enunciated by HEMS pilots will further advance the air medical transport community in meeting their collective goal of Vision Zero.