



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Safety Recommendation

Date: April 13, 2017

In reply refer to: A-17-13

Mr. Rick Sherlock
President and Chief Executive Officer
Association of Air Medical Services
909 North Washington Street, Suite 410
Alexandria, VA 22314

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On March 28, 2017, we adopted our report concerning the July 3, 2015, accident in which an Airbus Helicopters AS350 B3e helicopter, N390LG, registered to and operated by Air Methods Corporation, lifted off from the Summit Medical Center Heliport, Frisco, Colorado, and then crashed into a parking lot; the impact point was located 360 feet southwest of the ground-based helipad.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/AAR-17/01.

As a result of this investigation, we issued six new recommendations, including one to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); two to Airbus Helicopters; one to the FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency; one to the Association of Critical Care Transport; and the following recommendation to AAMS, which is also issued to the Air Medical Operators Association:

¹ National Transportation Safety Board, *Loss of Control at Takeoff, Air Methods Corporation, Airbus Helicopters AS350 B3e, N390LG, Frisco, Colorado, July 3, 2015*, NTSB/AAR-17/01 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2017).

A-17-13

Work with the Association of Critical Care Transport to establish a working group to develop and distribute guidelines, for those who purchase, lease, or contract for helicopters, regarding the equipment and systems that would enhance the helicopters' crashworthiness, including, at a minimum, a crash-resistant fuel system and energy-absorbing seats.

Acting Chairman DINH-ZARR and Members HART, SUMWALT, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.²

The NTSB is vitally interested in this recommendation because it is designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement it. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendation by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to correspondence@ntsb.gov. If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

[Original Signed]

By: Robert L. Sumwalt, III
Acting Chairman

² Board Member T. Bella Dinh-Zarr was acting chairman of the NTSB when the accident report was adopted on March 28, 2017. Effective March 30, 2017, Board Member Robert L. Sumwalt, III is acting chairman.



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Mr. Christopher Eastlee
President
Air Medical Operators Association
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
4th Floor East
Washington, DC 20037

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we carry out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Air Medical Operators Association (AMOA) to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On March 28, 2017, we adopted our report concerning the July 3, 2015, accident in which an Airbus Helicopters AS350 B3e helicopter, N390LG, registered to and operated by Air Methods Corporation, lifted off from the Summit Medical Center Heliport, Frisco, Colorado, and then crashed into a parking lot; the impact point was located 360 feet southwest of the ground-based helipad.¹ Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/AAR-17/01.

As a result of this investigation, we issued six new recommendations, including one to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); two to Airbus Helicopters; one to the FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency; one to the Association of Critical Care Transport; and the following recommendation to AMOA, which is also issued to the Association of Air Medical Services:

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Acting Chairman DINH-ZARR and Members HART, SUMWALT, and WEENER concurred in this recommendation.²

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