



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** April 13, 2017

**In reply refer to:** A-17-14

Mr. Richard McSpadden  
Executive Director  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Air Safety Institute  
421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, MD 21701

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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 Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Air Safety Institute to take action on the safety recommendation being issued in this letter.

On March 29, 2017, the NTSB adopted its special investigation report titled “Improving Pilot Weather Report Submission and Dissemination to Benefit Safety in the National Airspace System.”<sup>1</sup> Additional information about related incidents and accidents and the resulting recommendations may be found in the special investigation report, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/SIR-17/02.

In this special investigation report, we issued 19 new recommendations, including 13 recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration; one to the Aviation Accreditation Board International, the National Association of Flight Instructors, and the Society of Aviation and Flight Educators (each, respectively); two to the National Weather Service; one to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association; one to the Cargo Airline Association; and the following recommendation to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Air Safety Institute:

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<sup>1</sup> National Transportation Safety Board, *Improving Pilot Weather Report Submission and Dissemination to Benefit Safety in the National Airspace System*, NTSB/SIR-17/02 (Washington, DC: NTSB, 2017).

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Update your online pilot weather report (PIREP) course content to include, at a minimum, scenario-based training that uses real-world examples that (1) illustrate the value of both fair-weather and adverse-weather PIREPs, (2) explain how meteorologists use PIREPs to verify and revise aviation weather forecasts and advisory products to improve safety in the National Airspace System, (3) provide guidance on how to assess and describe weather phenomena and report their location accurately, and (4) demonstrate the various ways to submit PIREPs.

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

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](mailto: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.

By:

[Original Signed]

Robert L. Sumwalt, III  
Acting Chairman

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<sup>2</sup> Board Member T. Bella Dinh-Zarr was acting chairman of the NTSB when the special investigation report was adopted on March 29, 2017. Effective March 30, 2017, Board Member Robert L. Sumwalt, III is acting chairman.