

**Forest Service Manual
National Headquarters - Washington Office
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**Forest Service Manual 5700 – Aviation Management
Chapter 5720 – Aviation Safety Management System**

Amendment: 5700-2020-3

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Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Superseded Directive: 5700_20 (Amendment 5700-2009-3, 04/10/2009)

Approved by: Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Associate Deputy Chief, S&PF

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Responsible Staff:

Explanation of changes: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

5720 - Revises chapter in its entirety. Direction that was removed is relocated to FSH 5709.16, chapter 20 – Aviation Safety Management System.

5721 - Changes title from “Aviation Safety and Accident Prevention Planning” to “Aviation Safety Policy” and sets forth direction.

5722 - Changes title from “Flight Evaluation Board” to “Aviation Safety Risk Management” and sets forth direction.

5723 - Changes title from “Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation, Reports, and Procedures” to “Aviation Safety Assurance” and sets forth direction.

5724 - Changes title from “Aviation Safety and Accident Prevention Awards” to “Aviation Safety Promotion” and sets forth direction.

5725 - Removes Aviation Safety Education Program and incorporates direction at FSH 5709.16, chapter 60.

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5720 – Aviation Safety Management System

The Aviation Safety Management System (ASMS) is a business model that guides the Agency through a series of components with associated elements which organize existing processes into a dynamic model predicated on continual improvement. The ASMS fosters a safety culture through the development of a flexible, reporting, learning, and just aviation culture.

Refer to FSM 5700, FSH 5709.16, chapter 20, and the National Aviation Safety Management System Guide (NASMSG).

5720.1 – Authority

Refer to FSM 5701.

5720.2 – Objectives

To develop a safety culture that incorporates the four pillars of an ASMS (Policy, Risk Management, Promotion, and Assurance) to achieve and maintain a zero accident rate.

To educate agency employees who engage in aviation activities to incorporate ASMS and risk management tools into daily operations.

5720.3 – Policy

The policy of the Forest Service requires Aviation Managers to follow the direction in aviation manuals, handbooks, guides, and plans listed in 5706.

Aviation activities must comply with applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and standards for aviation safety and for reporting and investigating accidents and incidents (FSM 5700; FSH 5709.16; 6730, and Forest Service aviation guides).

The organization must utilize Safety Management System as the guiding safety process for aviation operations. The detailed elements of agency aviation safety must be maintained in the NASMSG. This guide contains best practices to achieve goals and objectives, and contains mandatory policy (FSM 1110.8, FSM 5108)

5720.31 – Principles for Aviation (SMS)

The following components and elements are the foundational structure of an ASMS:

1. Safety Policy and Objectives.
 - a. Management commitment and responsibility,

- b. Safety accountabilities,
 - c. Appointment of key safety personnel,
 - d. Coordination of emergency response planning, and
 - e. SMS Documentation.
- 2. Safety Risk Management.
 - a. Hazard identification, and
 - b. Safety risk assessment and mitigation.
- 3. Safety Assurance.
 - a. Safety performance monitoring and measurement,
 - b. The management of change,
 - c. Continuous improvement of the SMS.
- 4. Safety Promotion.
 - a. Training and education, and
 - b. Safety communication.

Refer to FSH 5709.16, chapter 20 and the NASMSG.

5720.4 – Responsibility

Refer to FSM 5704.

5720.5 – Definitions

Refer to FSM 5705 and the NASMSG.

5720.6 – References

Refer to FSM 5706.

5720.7 – Quality Assurance

Refer to FSM 5717.

5721 – Aviation Safety Policy

SMS is a critical element of management responsibility in determining the Agency's safety policy and SMS also defines how the Agency intends to manage safety as an organizational core function.

1. Policy guides aviation safety doctrine, philosophy, principles and practices.
2. Policy provides framework for aviation plans.
3. Policy assists in the development of local standard operating procedures.
4. Policy will foster and promote doctrinal principles and safety management systems within the Regions.

5722 – Aviation Safety Risk Management

Risk Management is a formal process where hazards are identified, risks analyzed, assessed, prioritized, and the mitigated results documented for decision making and controlling risk to an acceptable level. Risk management is a process of operationalizing and implementing safety into aviation planning activities.

The organization will utilize risk management for planning and implementing aviation operations.

Refer to FSH 5709.16, chapter 12.

5722.1 – Flight Data Governance

Accident prevention and/or safety inquiry requests for data and information must be formally requested to both the Assistant Director, Aviation and the Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management System.

Flight data is data from the AFF, OLM, SAFECOMs, or any other flight data collected. Data or information developed as a result of flight data collected will not be used in any punitive manner or enforcement action by the Forest Service against a member of the flightcrew, except for cases of deliberate or criminal acts. Access to flight data is tightly controlled and identifying information is permanently stripped from any records released. The success of safety management and non-punitive reporting depends on cooperation with flightcrews who can provide further insights beyond what the data can reveal.

5723 – Aviation Safety Assurance

Safety Assurance will evaluate the continued effectiveness/improvement of implemented risk control strategies. The SMS assurance process systematically provides aviation leadership confidence that organizational outputs meet or exceed safety requirements. Aviation safety assurance ensures compliance through information acquisition, audits and evaluation, employee reporting, data analysis and program/system assessments.

The Agency will employ a robust safety assurance program. Safety assurance involves processes for quality assurance, mishap investigation, and program review to perpetuate the safety management cycle through feedback.

5724 – Aviation Safety Promotion

The organization must promote safety as a core value with system safety practices that support a positive safety culture. Leadership will promote a positive safety culture and communicate it throughout the organization. Safety promotion must be accomplished through safety awards, education and communication throughout all aviation related and support functions within the Agency.

5724.1 – Aviation Safety Communiqué

To enhance a reporting culture, the interagency incident reporting system, Aviation Safety Communiqué (SAFECON) is the principal means of communicating hazards, identifying trends and enhancing safety awareness. This reporting culture includes items such as lessons learned, policy changes, technical bulletins, and safety alerts. The SAFECON system is non-punitive and is not to be utilized for contract evaluations/compliance.

5724.2 – Aviation Safety Award

The Agency must maintain an aviation safety award program in accordance with ASMS principles.

Refer to the NASMSG, Chapter 5.