

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation**



# Operations Alert

**No. 05-04**

**August 5, 2005**

**Subject:** SEAT Operations

**Area of Concern:** Operational Procedures

**Discussion:** In light of some recent events, it is important to remind each SEAT Manager to remain focused on all aspects of safety. All SEMGs should be conducting the “**six minutes for safety**” discussions each day.

We will provide the time and opportunity for pilots to review their emergency procedures prior to the start of operations each day. This time shall include, but not be limited to, quiet study time for the pilot to reexamine the standard procedures for in-flight emergencies, as well as some time in the cockpit to physically rehearse those procedures. We must also provide the opportunity for the pilot to exercise the emergency jettison mechanism on the aircraft. We will provide the water and any necessary support to accomplish the task. Doing the water jettison practice can be accomplished on the ramp. This should become standard operations at the base on a periodic basis. Discuss appropriate frequency with your pilots, but at least once a week should be the norm.

Discuss with the pilots all emergency radio procedures. Have them practice switching to “Guard” and making the calls appropriate for emergencies. It would be a good idea to discuss with the pilot what help we would be able to provide, such as alerting the appropriate authorities and initiating the “Emergency Plan” for the situation. This will relieve some of the workload on the pilot at a time when he/she will be otherwise pre-occupied.

Another reminder is to review the “Crash Rescue” plan for your base. Discuss all items and procedures with the base personnel and pilots. Practice drills and specific task assignments should also be part of your daily work schedule. Review the operation of the fire extinguishers and when to use them. Discuss with the pilot how to operate the emergency door release on the aircraft, and review that operation on a daily basis.

Please take the time, during your busy schedule, to remind yourselves that even the smallest lapse in focus could result in an incident that could have dire consequences.

The lesson here is to “**be prepared**” for the worst case scenario. **Know and practice your emergency procedures. Stay focused on safety.**

**For additional information contact**

**Joe Bates, DOI, BLM (208) 387-5879 Cell (208) 830-1634  
Sean Cross, DOI, BLM (208) 387-5444 Cell (208) 867-0285**