US Helicopter Safety Team

Friends and partners of Aviation Weather
NTSB Washington, DC
3 August 2016
Accident Review #1
• NTSB Report: ERA09FA537
• Date: 09/25/2009
• Flight Route: CHS-HYW
  • CHS: Charleston International Airport (SC)
  • HYW: Conway-Horry Co. Airport (SC)

➤Note: Accident occurred 1.98 nautical miles southwest of Georgetown Co. Airport (GGE). AWOS at GGE out of service for past 6 weeks.

• *Cherokee, AL* – Dec. 30, 2007 – Bell 206 – 3 fatal

• *S. Padre Island, TX* – Feb. 5, 2008 – AS350 – 3 fatal

• *La Crosse, WI* – May 10, 2008 – EC135 – 3 fatal

• *Huntsville, TX* – June 8, 2008 – Bell 407 – 4 fatal

• *Flagstaff, AZ* – June 26, 2008 – 2x Bell 407’s – 7 fatal

• *Greensburg, IN* – Sept. 1, 2008 – Bell 206 – 3 fatal

• *Forestville, MD* – Sept. 28, 2008 – AS365N1 – 4 fatal *

• *Aurora, IL* – Oct. 15, 2008 – Bell 222 – 4 fatal

• *Georgetown, SC* – Sept. 25 2009 – AS350 – 3 fatal

• *Doyle, CA* – Nov. 14, 2009 – AS350 – 3 fatal

• *El Paso, TX* --Feb. 6, 2010 -- AS350 – 3 fatal

• *Brownsville, TN* – 26 March 2010, AS350 – 3 fatal

• *Midlothian, TX* – 5 June 2010—Bell 222 – 2 fatal

• *Kingfisher, OK* – 22 July, 2010---AS350 – 2 fatal

• *Tucson, AZ*— 28 July, 2010—AS350—3 fatal

• *Scotland, AR* – 31 August, 2010- Bell 206– 3 fatal

• *Kearney, MO* –26 August, 2011– AS350--- 4 fatal

• *Greenville Springs, FL* – 26 December 2011— Bell 206 —3 fatal

• *Rochelle, IL* – 11 December 2012-- BK117– 3 fatal

• *Cerro Gordo Cty, IA*, 3 January 2013, B407- 3 fatal

• *Oklahoma City, Ok.* 25 February 2013, AS350- 2 fatal

• *Manchester, KI*, 6 June 2013, B206- 3 fatal

• *Talihina, OK* ,11 June 2013, AS350– 1 fatal, 2 critical, 1 injured

• *Somerville TN*, 22 Oct. 2013 AS350 – 3 fatal

• *Newkirk, NM*, 16 July 2014  A109E, –3 fatal

• *Wichita Falls, TX*, 4 Oct. 2014, Bell 206,--1 fatal, 1 critical

• *St. Louis, MO* , 3 March 2015, EC130- 1 fatal

• *Eufaula, OK*, 12 March 2015, AS350, - 1 fatal, 2 injured

• *Frisco, CO*, 3 July 2015, AS350, 1 fatal, 2 injured

• *Bakersfield, CA*, 10 Dec. 2015, Bell 407, 4 fatal

• *Apache Junction, AZ*, 15 Dec. 2015, AS350, 2 fatal, 1 injured

• *Coffee County, AL*, 26 Mar. 2016, AS350, 4 fatal

---

**33 fatal crashes**

**33/Single Pilot**

**32/33 VFR** *

**27 / 33 SE**

**28/33 Night**

**16/33 IIMC**

---

Blue= day time., Orange = night, clear conditions  Red = night, marginal weather, low visibility.

With exception of MSP Trooper 2 crash (Forestville, MD) all aircraft operating VFR.
Strategies

1. Increasing the density of reporting stations by including additional weather reporting sites.
   
   • Non Federal AWOS-IIIIs are lowest hanging fruit but all AWOS AV and higher commissioned by FAA
   
   • Non-aviation weather systems, i.e. DOT road systems, RAWS (Remote Automatic Weather Stations), and private weather stations.
Federal AWOS/ASOS
Non-Fed AWOS
Combined FED/Non-FED
Weather into the system:

- NADIN
- MADIS
- MESOWEST
Strategies

2.

Pertinent information that pilots make go no-go decisions on in dynamic HEMS environment.

- Not just Ceiling and Visibility
- · Temperature
- · Dew point
- · Humidity
- · Wind direction
- · Wind speed
- · Precipitation
3.

Improving the ability to trend the above data so as to identify whether or not conditions are deteriorating or improving
4. Rapid access in flight to weather not being reported through normal aviation channels.