The investigation of a ditching of a jet aircraft appears to indicate that no warning of impending impact was received by any one in the cabin prior to the crash. Subsequently, an examination of the emergency checklists of several air carriers revealed that a requirement to warn the passengers does not appear on the checklists, even though it is discussed in the emergency procedures section of the respective flight manuals.

a. The preparation and bracing of the passenger to accept decelerative forces is an integral part of configuring the aircraft for a ditching or emergency landing.

b. Principal Operations Inspectors should assure that the emergency checklists of their assigned air carriers contain the item “Warn Passengers” as one of the last items prior to impact, yet sufficiently advanced to allow adequate time to permit the passengers to brace for a crash.