



# Federal Aviation Administration

## National Part 139 CertAlert

**\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\*Advisory\*\*Cautionary\*\*Non-Directive\*\***

**Date:** 5/7/2013 **No. 13-03**  
**To:** Airport Operators, FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspectors (ACSI)s  
**Subject:** Coordination of High Risk Flight Test Activities at Airports  
**Point of Contact:** Randy Moseng, AAS-300, (404) 474-5114

**1. Purpose.** This CertAlert encourages airport operators to maintain awareness of high risk flight test activities conducted on their airports and to adequately coordinate with flight test operators for such activities.

**2. Background.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recently completed an investigation of an accident involving a flight test aircraft that crashed following a one engine inoperative (OEI) flight test maneuver. During the investigation, the NTSB determined that advance coordination between the airport operator and the flight test operator was lacking, particularly about the mutually beneficial coordination of aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) services.

**3. Recommendations.** The runway environment is dynamic and thus inherently risky. It is even more dangerous when there are high risk flight test activities conducted. The availability of ARFF services during such high risk flight test activities is important. To that end, we offer the following recommendations:

**a.** Airport operators should be aware of, and coordinate with, flight test operators for scheduling high risk flight test activities at their airport.

**b.** Airport operators should coordinate in a mutually beneficial manner the provision of ARFF services during high risk test flight activities.

**c.** The primary ARFF mission should always remain in accordance with the requirements stated in 14 CFR Part 139. However, airport operators should make efforts to coordinate the scheduling of high risk flight activities when ARFF is available and at times when these activities will not interfere with air carrier operations or place an additional burden on ARFF.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Rushforth".

Brian Rushforth, Manager  
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