



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

National Policy

**ORDER  
8025.1D**

Effective Date:  
04/09/2015

**SUBJ:** Medical Responsibilities in Aerospace Incidents and Accidents

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**1. Purpose of This Order.** This order establishes the Office of Aerospace Medicine (AAM) responsibilities in the analysis of medical factors related to aerospace incidents and accidents.

**2. Audience.** The Office of Aerospace Medicine and Federal Aviation Accident Investigators.

**3. Where Can I Find This Order.** You can find this order on the MyFAA Employee website: [https://employees.faa.gov/tools\\_resources/orders\\_notices/](https://employees.faa.gov/tools_resources/orders_notices/).

**4. What This Order Cancels.** FAA Order 8025.1C, Medical Responsibilities in Aerospace Incidents and Accidents, dated March 12, 2008, is cancelled.

**5. Explanation of Policy Changes.** None.

**6. Activities.** Public and private organizations/individuals rely upon the analysis of bio-medical data from aerospace incidents and accidents for a variety of purposes. This program is part of a systems safety approach to measuring aviation safety outcomes of interest to aerospace medical authorities and is a valuable data source for the Office of Aviation Safety (AVS) Safety Management Systems. Relevant medical information is received at Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI). Specific activities related to fatal and non-fatal incidents and accidents include:

**a.** Toxicology specimens are analyzed by the Aerospace Medicine Bioaeronautical Sciences Research Branch (AAM-610). Autopsy and external toxicology reports obtained from Medical Examiners and Coroners as well as injury data obtained from the accident investigators is stored and maintained by the Bioaeronautical Sciences Research Branch (AAM-610).

**b.** Autopsy, toxicology, injury, and other data are sent for analysis to the Aerospace Medicine Protection and Survival Research Branch (AAM-630).

Medical personnel are responsible for reviewing the Emergency Operation Network (EON) Daily Report Application (DRA) and the Administrator's Daily Alert Bulletin published by the Office of Emergency Operations and Communications (AEO-100) for reports of aerospace accidents and incidents. Those incidents and accidents meeting certain criteria, e.g., presence of fatalities, high visibility, etc. are identified and selected for detailed medical analysis, which is then provided to accident investigators and others.

7. **Responsibilities.** The following offices are responsible for the following functions.

a. The Office of Aerospace Medicine shall coordinate and manage all responsibilities for the analysis of biomedical data collected from aerospace incidents and accidents.

b. Regional Medical Offices shall provide assistance to agency personnel or external customers when requested.

c. CAMI shall:

(1) Conduct toxicological analysis and arrange for any other studies deemed appropriate on specimens from aerospace incidents and accidents.

(2) Obtain, store, and analyze incident and accident reports, medical records, autopsy, toxicology, medical certification information, aircraft occupant injury description and incidental medical findings, in-flight aircrew incapacitation, and other human performance information on airmen involved in aerospace incidents and accidents. In addition, incident and accident reports can be obtained as needed.

(3) Establish and maintain aerospace medical research databases that comply with current Federal privacy requirements, and can be used to determine which medical and human performance factors played a role in incidents and accidents.

(4) Conduct biomedical research utilizing incident and accident data.

(5) Conduct research into methodology of post incident/accident specimen analysis.

(6) Recommend additional research as appropriate.

(7) Work collaboratively with appropriate stakeholders to obtain incident and accident information that promotes aviation safety.

(8) Manage the AAM aerospace accident autopsy process.

(a) Assist the National Transportation Safety Board or the FAA Investigator-in-Charge in arranging for autopsies and collection of toxicology specimens in cases where local authorities do not do so.

(b) Budget for and arrange for payment of autopsies and notify Flight Standards District Office of CAMI's willingness to pay for requested aircrew autopsies.

(c) Develop policy and procedures that establish the criteria for the authorization and payment for autopsies conducted on the victims of aviation accidents.

(9) Participate in incident and accident investigations as requested.

(10) Provide training in the medical investigation of aerospace incidents and accidents.

(11) Provide periodic reports regarding biomedical aspects of aerospace incidents and accidents.

**8. Funding.** Funds for these activities shall be requested through the normal budgetary process.

**9. Distribution.** This order is distributed to director level in Washington, except in the Office of Aerospace Medicine, where it is distributed to division level in regions, CAMI; Office of Accident Investigation where it is distributed to branch level; and Flight Standards District Offices.



James R. Fraser, M.D.  
Federal Air Surgeon