EMERGENCY TRAINING FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

The (US) National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) provided at end August information to urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to take action on safety recommendations.

These recommendations address emergency identification and response training for air traffic controllers and are derived from NTSB investigations of five accidents.

As a result of these investigations, the NTSB has issued two safety recommendations:

To the Federal Aviation Administration
Develop recurrent national training for air traffic controllers, including scenario-based training, to instruct them on identifying and responding to emergency situations to include the following:

(1) recognizing emergencies,

(2) determining what help is needed, and

(3) taking actions that help pilots safely resolve the situation.

The NTSB also recommends that the FAA ensures that the training is current and relevant and includes lessons learned from recent events throughout the National Airspace System that address best practices for helping pilots who are experiencing problems such as (but not limited to) the following:

(1) partial or total power loss and fuel emergencies;

(2) control difficulties;

(3) impaired navigational capability;

(4) loss of flight instruments or other critical aircraft systems (including attitude information);

(5) encounters with hazardous meteorological conditions;

(6) inadvertent flight into instrument meteorological conditions by visual flight rules pilots; and

(7) pilot medical issues, such as hypoxia.