

TITLE: In-Flight Firefighting and Material Flammability Safety Issues

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Abstract: The TSB has identified safety deficiencies in several aspects of the current government requirements and industry standards involving in-flight firefighting. These deficiencies increase the time required to assess and gain control of what could be a rapidly deteriorating situation. When viewed together, these deficiencies reflect a weakness in the efforts of governments and industry to recognize the need for dealing with in-flight fire in a systematic and effective way.

The presentation will discuss the following fire safety related deficiencies within the context of the Board's deficiency validation methodology:

- ?? lack of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to in-flight firefighting increases the overall risk;
- ?? smoke/fire detection and suppression systems are insufficient;
- ?? adequacy of material flammability standards;
- ?? access to critical areas within aircraft is inadequate;
- ?? the importance of making prompt preparations for a possible emergency landing is not recognized; and
- ?? the time required to troubleshoot smoke/fire problems is excessive.