



AIR TRANSPORT



DISTRICT LODGE 142

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Subject: Regional Airline Passenger Head Injury Report

One of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) top safety concerns pertains to passengers injuring their head on the main cabin entryway on regional aircraft. This safety issue goes back to 1975 with the birth of the regional airline industry and the introduction of smaller regional aircraft such as the Fokker F-28.

To ensure the safety of passengers during the boarding and deplaning process a removable cushion device was used to avoid potential passenger head injuries on the shorter F-28 main cabin entryway. Unfortunately, when the F-28 was retired in the 1980's the entryway cushion device was not adopted by other regional aircraft manufacturers and air carriers, despite that passenger head injuries are much more prevalent now than in the past.

The "Regional Airline Passenger Head Injury" report published by JDA Aviation Technology Solutions (JDA) underscores the significance and severity of this safety issue. IAMAW concurs with the findings and analysis and strongly supports the recommendation made by JDA. To ensure that all future passenger head injuries are documented IAMAW has urged that its members submit voluntary safety reports to the Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS).

Respectfully,

John Hall, Director
District 142 Flight Safety