

Operations WG Discussion Overview



Operations WG Discussion

- Over 40 attendees
- HAZMAT Procedures: Air Carrier Special Operation Branch Mngr
 - Veronica Hollaway
 - DCTs great tool for internal audit of effective HAZMAT procedures (8900.1)
- Expanded Weather Box Data – Nolan Crawford
 - For expanded weather box range of 80X100 to become established
 - Need additional operator participation in sharing observed wx data
 - Both VFR & IFR
- AFC Update – Terry Gamble Big Beautiful Bill: Requires Radar Altimeters meet specific minimum performance requirements
 - FAA Estimated upgrade of \$40,000 per aircraft

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- Surveillance & Broadcast Systems – Colleen Ahlers & Alex Charity
 - 2026 Loss of ADS-B Coverage + VHF Comms West of Lake Charles
 - Operational Impacts:
 - Loss of Direct Routing | IFR operations revert to grid system
 - Reduced IFR services
 - Larger aircraft separation distances | Staggered IFR departures/arrivals
- U.S. Helicopter Safety Team – Seth Buttner
 - Helicopter crash statistics and identified trends
 - Gulf of America Helicopter Operations leading industry in safety metrics
- Virtual Reality Initial Pilot Training Testing – Cliff Johnson
 - 4 VR Simulators Certified to Level 7
 - Some pilots reaching commercial standards when introduced to actual helicopter
 - FAA to discuss progress at Verticon