



The Safety Beacon is for informational purposes. Unit safety officers are encouraged to use the articles in the Beacon as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions. Members may also go to LMS, read the current Beacon, and take a quiz to receive credit for monthly safety education.

August 2017

The Best Of ...

As you read this we are in the final stages of preparation for the upcoming National Conference in San Antonio. I hope to see some of you there!

Rather than skipping a month of the Beacon, I decided to look back and pull a few articles from past editions. These articles are still applicable to many of the issues we continue to work, and hopefully will be good reminders for everyone.

This morning I took a look at the hurricane and tropical storm outlook on the [National Hurricane Center's](#) website. As of the morning of August 17, Hurricane Gert had taken a right turn and was safely aimed for the North Atlantic, but there were three tropical waves coming off the coast of Africa and headed west. The outlook for the first one in the line had these foreboding words: *"...expected to bring the system through the Lesser Antilles and into the eastern Caribbean Sea in 24-36 h, into the central Caribbean by 72 h... favorable for strengthening, and the... models show slow, but steady, intensification."*

That should be an ample reminder that we have entered the Hurricane Season! September is "National Preparedness Month" so let's start with the feature below from the September 2016 Beacon....

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, and FEMA offers a wealth of information to help individuals, families, and communities prepare themselves for life's emergencies. Check out [Ready.gov](#), a Department of Homeland Security website for all the information you need.



[Click here!](#)

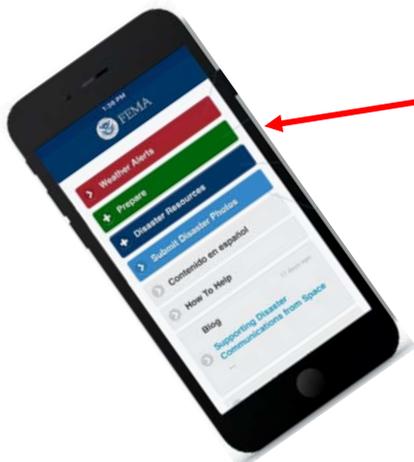
Do you like apps for your smart phone?

Click on the smart phone and you'll have all sorts of preparedness tools at your fingertips.

These FEMA websites will provide the tools you need to stay prepared year around while providing some great informative briefing ideas for your monthly safety education briefings.

Share your ideas!

Safety@capnhq.gov



Note: With a bit of a background in Psychology, I am intrigued with how our minds can play tricks on us when we're faced with stressful situations. Conversely, our minds can also be our greatest tools if we understand the "human factors" affecting us and use predetermine processes to help us manage our thoughts, our plans, and our actions in those situations. This "academic" article is from the June 2016 Beacon.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN!

Humans as Hazards?

George Vogt, CAP/SE

Human Factors

All of us have heard of Human Factors in the context of safety, and most of us have read articles or sat through lengthy lectures on Human Factors. In short we learn about all the ways that different physiological and psychological traits of the human can be a factor in mishaps and safety.

We learn that fatigue can affect our decision making. Complacency can result in reduced attention to hazards and risk. Flying across time zones can affect our circadian rhythms. Poor ergonomics and the way we function in our cockpit can reduce efficiency and crew coordination. Going even further, we learn how our mind actually functions (or malfunctions) when confronted with difficult decisions, and how we interpret large amounts of information.

We can begin to get concerned that our own body and mind are ultimately one of the greatest hazards we face when we fly. I look at human factors a slightly different way.

The study of Human Factors makes us aware of the "hazards" that the body and the mind present. Understanding those "human factors" allow us to analyze each of those "factors" the same way we would analyze any other hazard -- through the deliberate process of risk management. Identify the hazard, assess the risk, determine the proper risk controls, and apply them.



FAA Safety Briefing

In an excellent article in the Postflight column (pg 36) of the May/June issue of [FAA Safety Briefing](#), Susan Parson writes about Human Factors. For those who don't recognize the name, Capt Susan Parson is the CAP National Stan/Eval Officer. In her "daytime" job she is (among other things) Editor of the FAA Safety Briefing. In her article she references a book entitled **Blink** by author Malcom Gladwell. Part of the premise of the book is that the mind takes in and processes an exceptionally large amount of information in a very short amount of time, sometimes interpreting it

correctly, and sometimes not. This is especially true in this modern era of stimulus overload that seems to come with electronic cockpits and computerized flight bags. The take away is that sometimes, when the brain is doing its best to keep up, it will give you little signals like "this doesn't look right" or that "gut feeling" you get when something is wrong. You need to respect those feelings and analyze what you're seeing.

