



Civil Aeronautics Administration

Aviation Safety Bulletin

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Subject :

In 2016, two incidents occurred in two separate national carriers respectively. Investigation reveals they were involved with the usage of cell phone while in charge of mobile power battery, which consequently led to cabin smoke and the activation firefighting procedures. In addition to urging operators to review SOP of cabin fire (including lithium battery fire) and its related crewmember training, CAA calls for operators to enhance situational awareness and implement operation control of their related personnel to ensure safe operations.

Background :

Recently, the industry has noticed there were several battery smoke and fire incidents happening in flight, caused by overheating of cell phones or battery-powered devices. For the purpose of coping with the possibilities efficiently, CAA will require operators to follow the related procedures.

Recommendations :

All operators shall develop the following procedures :

1. Enhance the firefighting equipment on board, including portable fire extinguisher, fireproof gloves and Protective Breathing Equipment (PBE)...etc. In regard to lithium battery fire disposal measure, they should adhere to the following guidelines.
 - When observing fire or smoke, disconnect the mobile battery power source immediately (if applicable) and remove the peripheral flammable substance e.g. oxygen bottle.
 - After putting out of fire, use non-ethanol liquid to suppress thermal runaway of the subject and under continued monitor to prevent its possibility of re-ignition.
 - Place the subject in appropriate containers filled with non-ethanol liquid without leakage, by using fireproof gloves.
 - Designate a safe partition area for its storage.
 - Rearrange passenger sitting to stay away the affected area and provide them with smoke protection measures.
 - Periodically observe the follow up status and report.
2. Refer to the CAA Advisory Circulars 120-029 "In-Flight Fires", and follow the guidance of aircraft manufacturers on fire handling to ensure their corporate operating manuals have coverage of above procedures.
3. Educate all ground staff and crewmember to have situational awareness, abide by operation control and supervise its implementation.
4. Provide information to passengers about restrictions on the carriage and use of portable electronic devices onboard through company website, publications or other ways.
5. Comply with the Authority legislations on Dangerous Goods, the carriage of lithium battery, its transportation and emergency disposal operations.