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Subject:

Emergency Locator Transmitters

Distribution:

All DOI Aviation Activities

Discussion: Several recent Interior aircraft accident investigations recovered emergency locator transmitters (ELT's) with arming switches in the OFF position. During flight, ELT's should be armed to activate on impact. Also, turning the ELT ON after the crash will override the crash sensor, triggering a distress signal, should the crash sensor fail to activate. In one instance the ELT was armed during the crash sequence and reportedly turned off by the pilot immediately after the aircraft came to rest, hampering search efforts.

One of the benefits of an ELT is that it greatly reduces the search area when trying to locate a downed aircraft, which results in reduced time to complete the search and rescue and increases your chances of survival. Search and rescue agencies have reported that the amount of time required to locate a downed aircraft averages 22 hours for aircraft with operating ELT's versus 131 hours for aircraft without an ELT.

Recommendations:

1. During your preflight inspection, check the ELT's battery expiration date and arming switch.
2. After a mishap, check your ELT for damage. If it is removable place it where it will not be affected by line of sight limitations and then turn your ELT to the ON position.

If you have any questions regarding this subject please contact your OAS Area/Regional office:

Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage)	907-271-3700
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