

INTRODUCTION

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Generally speaking accidents are defined in terms of damage or injury and aviation is not away of that simple concept. According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aircraft accident is an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such persons have disembarked, in which: a person is fatally or seriously injured as a result of being in the aircraft or direct in contact with any part of the aircraft, including parts which have become detached from the aircraft or direct exposure to the blast. The aircraft sustains damage or structural failure affecting the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics or require major repair or replacement of the affected component. Also it is considered an accident if the aircraft is missing or is completely inaccessible. This is the definition, but why does it happen might be our major concern and appropriate answer the biggest challenge.

All aircraft accidents are different, but the accident investigation process it should be the same, including accumulating knowledge about the facts of the accident, analyzing the data and developing conclusions.

This Lecture Series is devoted to the medical investigation related to the pathological findings associated to the biodynamics of the impact. From that perspective, the investigational accident procedure will be capable in procuring appropriate answers which necessarily will fit in the whole body of the investigation. That information is critical in producing clues about the nature of the injuries, and key for determining causal facts related to conditions capable to lead to the accident.

This information will be focused on determining what injury and injury mechanism data are required from accident investigations in order to develop recommendations on effective methodologies to use in the conduct of an investigation.

Finally this Lecture Series has long term objectives, such to promote knowledge in this specific field, also intend to facilitate networking and interchange information and create the appropriate atmosphere for future scientific and academic activities in Aircraft accident Investigation and possibly the most important one to step on future NATO common procedures which lead to interoperability.

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