

No. 98-01

Subject:

Aircraft Weight and Balance

Distribution:

All DOI Aviation Activities

Discussion:

Pilots and aviation users are reminded that Federal Aviation Regulations and Departmental guidance require aircraft weight and balance to be calculated prior to each flight. Many Interior and Forest Service helicopter operations also require that an Interagency Load Calculation be completed prior to flight. During site visits, aviation safety teams have discovered aircraft weight and balance records and load calculations did not reflect the actual operating weight of the aircraft. Items such as survival kits and the pilot's personal equipment were not included in the calculations.

Recommendation:

Please ensure aircraft weight and balance calculations are correct. Lives depend on it!

Dave Broadnax
Aviation Safety Manager