

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF AIRCRAFT SERVICES

SAFETY ALERT

No. 00-08

August 25, 2000

Subject:

Wire Strikes

Distribution:

All DOI Aviation Activities

Discussion: A recent DOI related wire strike accident resulted in the airplane pilot being cited by the FAA for violating:


FAR 91.119. **Minimum Safe Altitudes:** General. Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitude: c) **Over other than congested areas.** An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.

Recommendations:

1. Know where the wires are. Check local hazard maps and survey the area for wires prior to conducting low level operations.
2. Slow down! Lower speeds significantly increase your ability to detect and avoid wires.
3. In general, cross powerlines at towers or poles while taking care to avoid any static lines. However, while conducting operations in the vicinity of steep canyons or valleys that contain transmission lines, ensure that the lines that cross these areas are not configured with floating static lines, prior to crossing at towers or poles.
4. Powerlines and supporting towers are considered structures by the FAA and aircraft must maintain 500 feet of clearance.
5. Report wire hazards using the Safecom.

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

Alaska Regional Office (Anchorage)	907-271-3700
East Area Office (Atlanta)	770-458-7474
West Area Office (Boise)	208-334-9310
West Area Office (Phoenix)	602-640-2633


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