The 2nd annual LifeFlight Eagle Safety Symposium brings relevant safety-related education to air medical professionals. The two-day symposium covers a range of relevant topics for pilots, medical crew members, communication center employees as well as management team members. Industry leaders will share the latest trends in safety technology, communications, crew member fatigue management and more.

The conference is FREE to participants with CEU available for medical staff. The conference also includes a complementary reception on September 19th and complementary breakfast and lunch will be provided on September 20th.

Hurry to register! Space is limited!

The conference is complimentary due to the generosity of our sponsors. The only costs to your organization are travel and lodging.
Wednesday, September 19th

1300 – 1400 Registration

1200 – 1500 Fatigue in Aviation - Dr. Thomas E. Nesthus, Ph.D.

Presentation materials will provide a fundamental knowledge about fatigue and practical recommendations for fatigue management and prevention.

Focus areas include basic background information on fatigue and circadian rhythms, introduction to sleep and sleep management, relationship to aviation and the potential for negative outcomes, introduction to fatigue management strategies and fatigue countermeasures.

Dr. Thomas E. Nesthus, Ph.D., is an Engineering Research Psychologist for the Federal Aviation Administration's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute.

Dr. Nesthus worked for the USAF Crew Technology Division, Brooks Air Force Base, TX from 1986-1992. He supervised diverse aerospace medical research projects and was principally responsible for providing human factors performance research support to the Sustained Operations Branch, Flight Motion Effects Branch, Cockpit and Equipment Integration Lab, and High Altitude Protection Function of the USAF Armstrong Research Laboratory. He was hired by the FAA Aerospace Human Factors Research Division in 1992. Current focal research activities include evaluation of fatigue and performance associated with flight and cabin crewmembers, ATC's, TechOps, and aviation maintenance technicians. He participates on numerous performance and fatigue-related DOT and interagency working groups. He's chaired the Aerospace Medical Association's Human Factors Committee and the DOD Human Factors Engineering, Sustained and Continuous Operations Technical Advisory Group. He provides assistance as requested by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Department of Justice. He testified on the fatigue factors associated with the crash of Colgan Air Flight 3407 during the NTSB’s public hearing (May 2009). He is currently assisting the Flight Standards Service - Air Transportation Division with 14 CFR Parts 117 and 121 Flightcrew Member Duty and Rest Requirements.

1500 – 1515 Break

1515 – 1615 Communications Specialists: Are they really needed? - Clayton Hummer

Are we really needed anymore? Pilots don't really want to talk to us. Flight crews recognized trends that the Specialist fail at. Bad LZ information. Is it really four to go, one to say no?

Communication Specialists, do we support the mission? What is our current role in the center? Involved the safety of the flight? Are we needed..? Yes… we are…

Clayton Hummer's aviation career started in 1974 spraying crops with a Bell 47G on the family farm.

Ever since then, Clayton has been involved in aviation with certificates held as a Commercial - Rotorcraft, CFII-Rotorcraft.

He has provided instruction to pilots transitioning to turbine helicopters and instrument instruction and has acted as a safety pilot. Clayton worked as a pilot in the Gulf of Mexico supporting the oil and gas industry in the late 90's.

Today Clayton uses his expertise as an aviator in his current role as Communication Supervisor at a busy Communication Center to promote the role of the Flight Communicator in the Aeromedical Community.

He is the sitting President for the National Association of Aeromedical Communicators and is the Chair of the Education Sub Committee for AMTC in Seattle 2012

As a pilot and a Communication Specialist, Clayton brings a unique look at the role and interactions of the Communication Specialist and flight crews.

He lives and works in Springfield, Mo.

1615 – 1630 Break
1630 – 1800 Rationalizing Best Practice in the Delivery of HEMS: Perils and Pitfalls - Thomas Judge, Executive Director of LifeFlight of Maine

While the public debate continues, the foundations, structures, and governance of healthcare are rapidly changing. Although the role medical transport will play in the transformation of healthcare is still uncertain, the need for higher levels of quality, capability, reliability, cost effectiveness, and safety are clear. By nature, HEMS is a high consequence endeavor, the presentation will examine strategies within and across state borders to define and implement best practices in safety and quality between different providers.

Learning Objectives include understanding tectonic plates in healthcare change and their relationship to medical transport, understanding internal and external economic efficiencies, understanding sharing services in a competitive environment and understanding strategies of navigating through political and economic change.

Thomas Judge serves as the Executive Director of LifeFlight of Maine, a non-profit hospital consortium critical care system serving over 40 hospitals in Maine and New England. In addition, Judge serves as the Executive Director of the LifeFlight Foundation, a non-profit charity that funds aviation infrastructure and outreach education services.

Judge brings a thirty-year background in pre-hospital emergency medical services in roles from provider to system planner/regulator. He has served as a subject matter expert for the National Transportation Safety Board, the Air Medical Expert Panel for the State of Maryland, and is a member of the Federal Department of Transportation National EMS Advisory Council.

He has also served a subject matter expert for Institute of Medicine and the Government Accountability Office. Former Board Chair of Maine EMS, the State Regulatory and Licensing Agency, Judge has worked extensively in both the public and non-government sectors. Judge has been involved in EMS program developments and lectured across the US as well as projects in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Denmark, and South Africa. He is an active professional member of the National Association of EMS Physicians, a faculty member of the National Medical Directors Course and Practicum, a founder ambulance member of the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh and served as Fellow at the Medical Care Research Unit - University of Sheffield. An active paramedic, Judge is particularly interested in patient safety, risk, governance, and the effects of health care policy and in the issues of access and equity in the provision of rural medical care.

Judge is the past board chair of the Association of Critical Care Transport (www.acctforpatients.org) and currently serves on the Joint Helicopter Safety Implementation Team, one of two work groups of the International Helicopter Safety Symposium (www.ihss.org) He just completed three terms on the Board of the Medevac Foundation International and is a past president of the Association of Air Medical Services.

1800 – 1830 Break

1830 Reception

Thursday, September 20th

0700 – 0800 Breakfast

0800 – 0900 Applied Safety Technology - Chris Bryant, Fleet Safety Manager

In today’s technologically driven society, we have enormous opportunities to utilize new methods for training, sustainment, and safety risk reduction. We will discuss safety technology in aircraft design, simulations training, and emerging products that will improve aviation safety and drive down unnecessary risks.

Chris Bryant is a retired Master Army Aviator, having served 21 years in the US Army. Chris has held numerous safety positions during his tenure on Active Duty, including serving as an Accident Investigator and Aviation Safety Officer Course Instructor at the US Army Aviation Safety/Combat Readiness Center. Additionally he was an instructor pilot in the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, a combat veteran pilot and holds a BS from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Currently, Chris is the Fleet Safety Manager for American Eurocopter in Grand Prairie, Texas.
0900 – 0915 Break


Critical care transport is about managing the sickest patients in an environment complicated by multiple patient moves and distractions. Even in the hospital, the risk to patients increases with these forays into remote areas with fewer and less available resources, so these risks are magnified in CCT. Transport teams face physical, regulatory, and legal risk, as well. More than all other demands and performance metrics, transport teams are accountable for the safety of the staff and patients. This thought-provoking presentation will describe the clinical, physical, and legal risks of transport and will close each with concrete strategies to optimize staff safety and patient outcomes.

Michael Frakes is the Director of Clinical Services, Education, and Performance Improvement for Boston MedFlight. His transport career began as an EMT in suburban Johnson County, KS, and also includes experience as a paramedic, communications specialist, and nurse in the ED, ICU, and on transport teams.

1030 – 1045 Break

1045 – 1145 Communication - Terry Palmer

Communication is one of the key elements to success and safety. It is one of the most crucial yet most misunderstood elements. In this presentation, we will review the tools and tips to become better communicators for everything we do both on the job and at home.

Terry Palmer retired from FlightSafety International where she served as the Manager of Rotorcraft Programs. Terry was the recipient of the prestigious 2010 HAI / AgustaWestland Safety Award. As a licensed pilot and instructor, Terry Palmer is certified to instruct in Falcon jets as well as rotorcraft operations. She is also certified as an instructor/facilitator in Human Factors, Crew Resource Management, Approach and Landing Accident Reduction and a variety of specialty programs. Her specialty includes Safety Programs for helicopter pilots, mechanics, medical crew, dispatchers and other team members.

Terry organized FlightSafety’s annual Helicopter Safety Forums attended by all the top EMS operators, associations and media. These successful forums led to other annual safety events and new industry training initiatives. Terry is currently working on various committees for HAI, IHST and AAMS.

Prior to working at FlightSafety, Terry was the Director of Crew Resource Management Training at Omniflight Helicopters. In this capacity, she developed and presented aviation safety programs for air medical and law enforcement flight departments in the US and Canada.

As an advocate of safety training, Terry served as a FAA Safety Counselor and has received numerous FAA and industry awards. She worked closely with CRM and Human Factors departments at American Airlines, Northwest Airlines and Bell Helicopter. Terry was the keynote speaker at the 2004 National Aviation CRM conference in Dallas.

1145 – 1300 Lunch


True safety does not start with classes, books, videos or seminars. True safety starts with the right philosophy and the right attitude; if you don’t change these, you won’t improve safety. We will examine ten specific attitudes that create unsafe environments, how to recognize them and how they hinder organizations in their quest for better safety. From the top to the bottom and the bottom to the top, a good safety philosophy must be one of the primary corner stones a program is built around and must permeate every corner of a company’s operation.

Behavioral objectives include understanding the role proper philosophies and attitude play in safety, understanding the difference between good and bad safety attitudes, identifying dangerous safety philosophies & attitudes in ourselves, identify dangerous safety philosophies & attitudes in an organization, and creating a personal strategy to counteract unsafe attitudes.

Rex Alexander has over 30 plus years of aviation experience, 26 of which are rooted directly in the helicopter industry with the last 18 being primarily in the HEMS arena. He is an experienced Regional Manager, Base Manager, Safety Manager, Line Pilot and Airframe and Powerplant Technician. He is currently the Senior Consultant, Member and Co-Founder at HeliExperts International LLC. His industry involvement includes but is not limited to being past President of the National EMS Pilots Association, as well as past President of the Indiana Association of Air Medical Services. He currently serves on the HAI Heliport Committee, HAI Air Medical Services Committee, NFPA-418 Standards for Heliports Committee and the International Helicopter Safety Team’s JHSIT infrastructure working group. He is an alumnus of Parks College of St. Louis University and is a former Warrant Officer and Aeroscout Helicopter Pilot, Instructor Pilot and Standardization Instructor Pilot of the United States Army and Indiana Army National Guard.

To register for this free conference, please visit www.safetynetwork.lifeflighteagle.org or call 816-283-9710. Please register by August 28th.