



AIR TRANSPORT DISTRICT LODGE 142



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EBOLA UPDATE

Today, the IAM Safety Committee participated in two conference calls together with aviation union affiliates of the AFL-CIO's Transportation Trades Department along with principles and senior officials from agencies charged with aviation safety, health and security about a coordinated response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak.

With Ebola now in the US, this highlights the importance and need for worker safety and health precautions and response to communicable disease. It is agreed that infectious disease protocol is very challenging. There needs to be serious attention to the procedures to manage it - both in an occurring event and in future events.

Participating in the call were agency officials from the White House, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agreed to participate in today's unprecedented call that brings officials and frontline stakeholders together for a discussion in support of aviation's first responders and safe air travel.

Topics included training in dealing with a sick passenger, how to isolate a passenger, OSHA enforcement, requirement of a blood borne pathogen plan, sufficient UPK kits onboard an aircraft, requirements of having running water on the aircraft, maintenance issues regarding changing out a seat cushion or lav issues after a sick passenger has been removed, disinfection of aircraft and many more issues affecting the workers in the aviation industry. What the current events have shown is that the airlines and various agencies are not prepared for a pandemic and a plan needs to be in place by the various industries. Also what is needed as well is government enforcement of OSHA rules to protect the workforce.

IAM will continue to be very active in these discussions and in meeting with corporate safety representatives to reinforce the health and safety of its membership. Any questions or concerns can be made to starks@iam2339o.org.

In Solidarity,

Stephanie Starks

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SS/slb

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