



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

SEP 13 2005

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Mr. Max Trescott  
3405 Ridgemont Drive  
Mountain View, CA 94040

Dear Mr. Trescott:

Thank you for your August 4 e-mail regarding our conversation at Oshkosh. My staff reviewed your excellent article, "Regional Accident Analysis: Know Your Local Risk Factors." Your concept of targeting safety information for the local pilot community certainly has merit. In fact, we have established a National Aviation Safety Team to help each of our Flight Standards District Offices use this concept to educate the pilots in their geographic areas. We agree with you that airmen are more interested in learning about their own unique local risks.

Your points about night flying are also well taken. The General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC), a government/private sector group that analyzes general aviation accident causes and recommends corrective measures, has also noted the much higher accident rate at night, particularly for visual flight rules (VFR) operations. In response to a GAJSC recommendation, the Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association's Air Safety Foundation prepared a "Safety Hot Spot" on flying VFR at night. This is an extensive set of training materials, available free to anyone on line. It can be found at:  
[http://www.aopa.org/asf/hotspot/night\\_vfr.html](http://www.aopa.org/asf/hotspot/night_vfr.html).

You have clearly gone the extra mile to raise the bar for aviation safety. Your work has provided targeted safety information to pilots that will help prevent accidents.

It is always a pleasure to meet and talk with the people who help make the United States the world's leader in general aviation.

Sincerely,

Marion C. Blakey  
Administrator