



Health & Safety Report - *March 2016*

2016 January - February Lost Time Injuries: 22 **Days LOST:** 178 days
2016 January - February Non-Lost Time Injuries (MINOR) as reported by AC in graphs: 77
Top Three Causes: Aircraft Part 8, Actions of Others (PAX) 7, Push/Pull 7
Top Three Types: Bruise 22, Sprain/Strain 20, Burn 8

COSMIC RADIATION

We are all affected by cosmic radiation in our daily lives. Energetic particles coming from the sun and from other sources in space bombard our planet continuously. Although some of the radiation reaches the ground, the Earth's atmosphere blocks most of it. However, Flight Attendants are exposed to higher level of cosmic radiation than the general population. Three main factors determine the amount of cosmic radiation we receive on a flight: altitude, latitude and the solar activity. When we fly, our exposure to cosmic radiation increases with altitude as the atmosphere gets thinner. For the same reason, flying closer to the poles also increases the amount we receive. Flying during the day or night however doesn't affect our exposure as the level of radiation is constant regardless of the time of the day.

In 2013, Air Canada launched a cosmic radiation monitoring program operated by PCAire for its flight attendants and pilots. Crew members can access PCAire's estimate of their exposure to cosmic radiation on a flight by flight basis. The program also provides a monthly total and a running 12 month total of exposure to cosmic radiation.

Although Transport Canada recommends that crew members do not exceed an annual exposure of 20 mSv, they also recommend to set an intervention level at 6 mSv which means that preventive measures should be taken to reduce the exposure when reaching that level. Crew members approaching the intervention level will receive a letter from the Company notifying them of their accumulated dose and to invite them to meet with a manager to discuss options.

The work between the Company and the Union on this issue is still ongoing and if you receive a letter, we invite you to take the offer to meet with a manager. This meeting is an opportunity to have an open dialogue between the Company, the Union and the Flight Attendants to find a way to mitigate the hazard by involving all stakeholders.

The meeting can be in person or over the phone depending on your preference and you are entitled to Union representation. It is important to note that the meeting is for information purposes only and you will not be forced to modify your flying.

We also encourage you to proactively monitor your exposure level by looking at your dose report found at aircanada.pcaire.com (typed without www in the address bar). It is always accessible through ePub > about you > HPP, bottom of the page "more on cosmic radiation" If this is the first time you are logging in, your login ID should be your employee number i.e.: ac003454. Your password should be the day you were born and the year you were born i.e. Jan 23, 1981: 231981.

Transport Canada Advisory Circular:

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/standards/commerce-ohs-radiation-2063.htm>

Health Canada Cosmic Radiation Exposure and Air Travel : <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/radiation/comsic-cosmique-eng.php>

ZIKA VIRUS

Since the outbreak of Zika virus, the Company has been offering accommodations to pregnant and suspecting pregnant Flight Attendants. The accommodations are still available and concerned crew members should contact their manager to request an accommodation at least 24h before their flight when possible. Please consult the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov/zika/geo) for an updated list of affected countries. For operating crew members, insect repellent wipes should have been added to the form satchels of flights destined to the Caribbean, Mexico as well as South and Central America.

DREAM CABIN

As more aircrafts are being reconfigured with the new dream cabin, we are noticing an increase in injuries associated with the dream cabin. Please take the time to report any health and safety issues by submitting a ACF32 – Health and Safety Concern form or a Hazard eReport filled out electronically on Acaeronet > Safety > Submit a Safety Report/SIMS > eReports > New eReport.

In Solidarity,

CUPE Health & Safety Team

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You may also contact us at (905) 676-4352 or via email ohs@local4092.ca