National Safety Council

Position/Policy Statement

Lightning Detection Systems for Airports

The National Safety Council requests that the FAA require all US airports be equipped with an airport lightning detection system to improve the safety of air traffic, to alert airline ground personnel crews of hazardous conditions that exist in their work place, to ensure safer aircraft fueling operations, and to enhance passenger safety and accuracy of weather prediction.

Until such a time as FAA requires lightning detection systems, the National Safety Council goes on record supporting and encouraging voluntary installation of lightning detection equipment at all major airports.

This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

Approved by Governmental Relations Committee, October 30, 1990

Approved by Board of Directors, October 31, 1990

PROS:

1. Safer aircraft fueling operations
2. Safer ground crew operations
3. Greater accuracy of weather prediction
4. Cost of purchasing and installing the system is relatively small, estimated at between $20,000-$30,000.

CONS:

Cost of installing lightning detection equipment most likely to be absorbed by the municipalities involved.