

STATUS BRIEF: USHST H-SE 23-04

FATIGUE RISK MANAGEMENT

WORKING GROUP

DATE

20 November 2025

PREPARED BY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

Provide updates on working group initiatives to develop guidance material for operators to establish a Fatigue Risk Management Program based on a quantitative objective framework to identify scenarios associated with elevated fatigue risk and to aid in the consistent and reliable execution of effective risk controls.

KEY OUTPUTS

1. Conduct background research relative to literature, NTSB incidents that cite fatigue, and regulations and guidance materials for rotorcraft operators, towards the goal of producing and published a white paper. [Complete]
2. **Develop a checklist to support rotorcraft operators in identifying the key components of a comprehensive FRMP to cover the range of fatigue risks in helicopter operations.** [In progress]
3. Develop a framework and how-to guide for rotorcraft operators to aid in setting up an effective FRMP. [In progress]
4. Conduct a large-scale study to investigate fatigue in conjunction with air medical transport operations work patters (phase II of Dr. Hannah Baumgartner's current research effort), supported by Pulsar Informatics software. [Not started]

1. RESEARCH AND WHITE PAPER DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS UPDATE

- Complete
- Link: USHST.pulsarinformatics.com

2. FRMP CHECKLIST DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS UPDATE

- In progress with planned draft completion by 31 Jan 2026
- Monthly working group meetings review content, assess progress and establish next steps towards objectives

CHECKLIST DESIGN

- Outline and construct of checklist are designed to mimic Part 5 SMS equivalents
- Content is descriptive and intended to apply to operations of all sizes and SMS maturity
- Compliance matrix will ensure checklist meets or exceeds existing CFR and AC guidance

FEEDBACK, IMPROVEMENTS & UPDATES

- Feedback is limited to working group members at this time

NEXT STEPS

- Complete draft inputs, edits and updates to working draft
- Review final draft by first week of Jan
- Limited distribution to Operators for review and feedback through third week of Jan

3. FRAMEWORK AND "HOW-TO" GUIDE DEVELOPMENT WITH CASE STUDY

PROGRESS UPDATE

- Task not yet started.

4. LARGE-SCALE STUDY TO INVESTIGATE FATIGUE

PROGRESS UPDATE

- Task not yet started.

RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS FOR USHST

- Continue incorporating feedback on FRMP checklist
- Promote USHST White Paper online, at tradeshows, and through supporting organizations
- Prepare for promotion of Checklist at Verticon 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

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