Expected Outcomes: Flight Crew duty/rest program

The departments’ primary responsibility is flight safety. Fatigue is the main element when establishing flight and duty time limitations for flight crews. Fatigue, divided into transient fatigue (temporary or acute) and cumulative fatigue (accumulating or chronic), will seriously reduce reflexes and efficiency. Because fatigue can be the cause of many factors and will vary with individuals, a crewmember is required to advise the Captain or Director, Air Transportation as appropriate when he or she feels they are nearing their natural limitations.

Assessment methods

Method: Scheduling limitations

Basic: Flight Duty Period 14 hours Block Time 8 hours Minimum
Crew rest 10 hours Flight duty period and Minimum crew rest times can be adjusted based on flight scenarios, day room availability and weather.

Findings:

Crewmember fatigue issues are significantly reduced.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The overall safety posture for the department and passengers served is greatly enhanced.

Additional comments:

None

Method: Elements of duty/rest program

Flight Duty Period: Begins when the crew reports for a scheduled flight. This is normally one hour prior to departure time. The flight duty period ends one/half hour after the last block in time.
Block Time: Encompasses the time from block out to block in for each segment of the trip. Cycle: One (1) takeoff and one (1) landing are equal to one (1) cycle. Crew Rest: Begins at the end of the flight duty period. The crew rest period ends when the crewmember arrives at the airport to begin the next flight duty period. The rest period may be reduced by one hour at home base, provided the crewmember is relieved of all post flight duties. If a situation arises in flight that could result in exceeding these limitations, the crew must make this decision. Proposed deviations which occur while on the ground require the approval of both the crew and the Director, Air Transportation.

Findings:

Crewmember fatigue issues are significantly reduced.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The overall safety posture for the department and passengers served is greatly enhanced.

Additional comments:

None