



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Michelle Lewis
Manager of Meetings and Communications

301-588-0587
Fax: 301-585-1803

NORTH DAKOTA AERONAUTICS COMMISSION NAMED MOST INNOVATIVE STATE OF 2005 BY NASAO

Des Moines, Iowa – The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) has named North Dakota the “Most Innovative State” of 2005 for its Aviation Crisis Communications Program.

The project was the first of its kind in North Dakota. The goal was to develop a plan to ensure safer operations and more prepared responses to emergency situations for the state’s general aviation facilities. The project involved surveying airport managers, local law enforcement and emergency responders and asking them to assess vulnerabilities. After the information was gathered, several workshops were held to inform attendees of identified vulnerabilities and the importance of coordinated communications in the event of a crisis. Finally, each general aviation airport was presented with an individualized assessment with a tailored crisis communications plan.

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission Director Gary Ness accepted the award during NASAO’s 74th Annual Convention and Trade Show in Des Moines, Iowa on September 13, 2005.

The Most Innovative State Program Award was established in 1984 to recognize unique and service-oriented state aviation programs, projects and activities. Many of these programs have spread to other states, and in some cases, have been adopted by the aviation community in general.

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