



TEAMSTERS AVIATION PROFESSIONAL

Newsletter of the Teamsters Aviation Mechanics Coalition

Summer 2020 | Volume 11, Issue 2

An Update on the State of the Industry from the TAMC

These are very uncertain times for our profession – we entered the most devastating downturn the aviation industry has ever experienced in March. To say that any facet of the industry remains unscathed would be a lie. Airline, MRO and OEM employees are awaiting what will surely be the most massive furlough in history, but we are seeing a glimmer of hope.

It has been nearly impossible to predict how and when the industry will begin to stabilize because of the COVID-19 situation and a lack treatment for the disease. Demand dropped 90 percent over night and cash burn is around \$61 Billion for 2020, according to a June 9 report from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). This is not a sustainable situation.

Most industry experts and CEOs expect to only be at 50 percent of 2019 capacity by the end of Q4. It's likely that the industry will not see a recovery to pre-COVID 19 levels for two to three years (or until there is a vaccine) so there will undoubtedly be some pain. As for the outlook on employment, that is anybody's guess. We'll all have to wait and see how many senior mechanics opt for early retirement, retirement or some other sort of long-term leave and it remains to be seen if the folks on the bottom of the seniority lists who get laid off will come back. A&P schools remain mixed in regards to their outlook on the future, with 58 percent expecting no impact on the current classes graduating and 45 percent of those graduating still having job offers. The majority of the schools also believe that enrollment will be down an average of 31 percent for the 2020-2021 school year.

The good news is that with the gradual reopening of cities around the world travel demand is on the rise. Airlines have committed to stringent cleaning of aircraft and terminals, along with the use of PPE and social distancing for crews, passengers, ourselves and our coworkers. We are already seeing added segments and up-gauging of aircraft on flights to accommodate extra passengers, and that is encouraging. According to the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) travel number comparison, on March 14, 2020 the total number of passengers passing through TSA checkpoints was a mere 87,534 – only four percent of passengers of the same day one year earlier (208 million) and the lowest point since air travel essentially shut down. By July 12, 2020 that number had risen to over 754,545 – 28 percent of the same day one year earlier, and the number continues to slowly increase. Another upside for aviation mechanics is that all of the airlines want to be ready to bounce back as travel demand continues its return. That means that aircraft must be ready to fly at a moment's notice, so downsizing should be less severe for aircraft mechanics as it is when compared to other airline work groups.

As essential service workers, you have come to work every day throughout this ordeal and will continue to do so to keep airplanes carrying medical staff and supplies to COVID-10 hot spots around the world. As economies slowly open back up, you will be there to ensure the safety of our passengers and crews. Thank you for all that you do.

TAMC, Teamsters Airline Division Urge Congress to Extend PSP:



The following is a statement from Teamsters Airline Division Director Capt. David Bourne regarding the CARES Act’s Payroll Support Program (PSP):

“Congress passed crucial legislation earlier this year to ensure aviation workers would be able to keep their jobs and benefits until September 30, but those protections are going to expire. An extension of the PSP is the only way to stop massive job losses from roiling our nation on October 1.

“The effect these job losses would have on our country, our industry and the entire economy will be too much to bear. Airlines are going to be crucial for getting this country back up and running as we get a handle on the coronavirus. Hundreds of thousands of jobs were saved as a result of the first COVID-19 stimulus package, and the jobs of aviation workers aren’t any less important now than they were then. Only through an extension of the PSP program can we ensure that airline workers will continue to stay employed and be ready to get our country moving.

“Therefore, we are calling on Congress to increase PSP funding levels by an additional \$32 billion; extend all previous requirements relating to involuntary furloughs, share repurchases, dividend payments, and collective bargaining agreements to March 31, 2021 and require the Treasury Department to immediately disburse funds to every air carrier and contractor that executed a PSP agreement at an amount equal to their current payroll support.”



It’s August and it’s hot! Just about everywhere across the United States the temperatures are in the 80s, 90s and 100s, so be aware of heat related illness and make sure you know how to avoid or treat it. This time of year, most of us perform or work in a hot environment. Aircraft interiors can easily reach 100°F or more even if you’re working in a hangar. Climbing into a cargo pit or the cockpit of an aircraft that has been parked in the sun can be brutal. Prolonged exposure to heat can kill you, so make sure that you protect yourself. Staying hydrated is only a part of the equation. Knowing how to avoid or mitigate heat stress is imperative, so stay cool and learn how to work in the heat.

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL LINKS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE IN THE HEAT:

Heat Stress, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/default.html>

Occupational Heat Exposure: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatstress/>

Using the Heat Index – A Guide for Employers:
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/pdfs/all_in_one.pdf

NTSB Report PW400 – Fan Blade Separation

The following incident occurred on February 13, 2018. United Flight 1175 was in route from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) to Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL) when it suffered a fan blade separation that resulted in the nose and fan cowls departing the aircraft; requiring the engine to be shut down in flight. The Aircraft landed safely at HNL and there were no injuries.

The Teamsters Airline Division requested and was granted party status to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation. SFO Teamster Safety Representative Tracy MacKorkell was appointed as the party coordinator and worked closely with the NTSB to provide the assistance they needed to complete the investigation.

As part of the Teamsters Airline Division’s commitment to safety we provide Go Team training taught by industry professionals on an annual or semi-annual basis, that we can provide qualified personnel to assist in an investigation at a moment’s notice. If you are interested in crash investigations, you will find this report interesting. Follow this link: <http://ibt.io/PW400NTSBReport> and it will take you to the NTSB’s final published report, which found the Pratt and Whitney fan blade inspection process at fault in this incident.

As mechanics, safety comes first. We are always curious about what causes failures, whether it be mechanical or process, so we can put the pieces of the puzzle together, make corrections and maintain safety.

MANAGING STRESS DURING THE ERA OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The following is an excerpt from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Guidelines on coping with stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. To read the guidelines in their entirety, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Pandemics can be stressful. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Public health actions, such as social distancing, can make people feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety. Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

Take care of your mental health.

You may experience increased stress during this pandemic. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions, but you should never feel like you don't have anyone to talk to. Hotlines like Veteran's Crisis, National Suicide Prevention and other resources are available at a moment's notice, you can access their contact information at the above link.



those on social media. Take care of your body with healthy, well-balanced meals, regular exercise, plenty of sleep and drinking alcohol only in moderation.

Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling. Connect with your community- or faith-based organizations. While social distancing measures are in place, consider connecting online, by phone or by mail.

Know the facts to help reduce stress.

Knowing the facts about COVID-19 and stopping the spread of rumors can

help reduce stress and stigma. Understanding the risk to yourself and people you care about can help you connect with others and make an outbreak less stressful.

Understand that everyone reacts differently to stressful situations.

How you respond to stress during the COVID-19 pandemic can depend on your background, your social support from family or friends, your financial situation, your health and emotional background, the community you live in, and many other factors. The changes that can happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ways we try to contain the spread of the virus can affect anyone. People who may respond more strongly to the stress of a crisis include: people who are at a high risk for severe illness, children and adolescents, caretakers, essential service workers (like A&P mechanics), people who have substance abuse disorders or other mental health conditions, people who are socially isolated and many others. Take care of yourself and your community. Taking care of your friends and your family can be a stress reliever, but it should be balanced with care for yourself. Helping others cope with their stress, such as by providing social support, can also make your community stronger. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health. Phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely, or isolated.

Put the healthy ways of coping with stress into practice. Contact a health professional before you start any self-treatment for COVID-19 and get tested if you feel symptoms. Know where and how to get treatment and other support services and resources, including counseling or therapy (in person or through telehealth services). Take care of your emotional health, which will help you think clearly and react to the urgent needs to protect yourself and your family. Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including

COVID-19 Webinars for Teamster Airline Mechanics

As part of our commitment to keeping aviation mechanics as safe and healthy as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, the TAMC has made recordings of these presentations available via ZOOM:

COVID-19 Essential Worker Health and Safety Awareness Webinar – Presented by Enjoli DeGrasse, Deputy Director, IBT Safety and Health Department

75 minutes, available at this link: <http://ibt.io/covid19hsa>

This webinar is designed to inform members are required to work during the pandemic shutdown how to protect themselves and their co-workers from exposure to the coronavirus. These materials were developed through worker training grants funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

Managing Stress During Coronavirus – Presented by Gretchen Grindle, LPC

40 minutes, available at this link: <http://ibt.io/covid19stressmanagement>

You are probably experiencing higher levels of stress due to concern over illness, work, home schooling, and any number of other issues that are exacerbated by the pandemic. In this webinar, Licensed Professional Counselor Gretchen Grindle presents some specific ways to manage ongoing stress.

WARN Notices, Explained:



What is a WARN notice? The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN) is a federal statute that provides protection to workers and their families by requiring employers to provide 60 days' notice in advance of certain involuntary actions, including potential plant closings and mass layoffs. Some states also have their own state specific WARN statutes. Generally, these statutes have specific thresholds that require companies to provide written notifications to employees if there is a reasonable expectation that they may be affected by an employment loss in certain locations based on information available at the time. The way potentially affected employees receive their message is different depending on where they work.

If I receive a WARN notice or my union is notified, does that mean I am furloughed? No. Just because you receive a WARN notice does not mean your job is being eliminated. It is, however, a sign that there is a reasonable expectation that your job may be affected by an involuntary furlough based on information available at the time. It is also possible that not all employees who receive a WARN notice will be furloughed.

TAMC ONLINE

Check out previous issues of the *Teamster Aviation Professional* at www.teamsterair.org/tamc/newsletter.

You can also find us at aviationmechanics.org and <https://www.facebook.com/theaviationmechanicscoalition>.

To receive the newsletter via email, sign up at <http://ibt.io/tamc-nl>.

