# Fatigue Management as a Component of Safety System Management

by Ben Winfree Alertness and Performance Management

## Safety System Management

- Safety System Management is the Optimization of all aspects of Safety within the constraints of :
  - \* Operational Effectiveness
  - \* Time
  - \* Cost

#### What is a System?

- An entity with an objective
- Functions in an environment
- Uses boundaries to define elements
- Has a hierarchy of functions

## This is a System:



## This is also a System:



#### What is a Safety System?

- Identifies hazards
- Assess the risks
- Risks = Probability X Severity
- Implements effective risk controls
- Monitors results

### Benefits of Safety System Mgt

- Acquire knowledge and skills
- Reduces Cost
- Target resources
- Manage safety risks
- Communicate effectively on safety
- Builds a positive safety culture

# Human Fatigue is an Insidious Threat to Aviation Safety

Impairments to Alertness and Performance

Leads to Error Vulnerability

## **Causes of Human Fatigue**

Sleep Loss

Circadian Disruption

#### Sleep Loss

- Sleep: A Physical Need
- On Average: 8 Hours of Sleep
- Need varies per individual (6-10)
- Need Unmet = Sleep Loss= Debt
- Age, Alcohol and Sleep Disorders

#### **Circadian Disruption**

- Altered Sleep Patterns
- Circadian Rhythms
- Circadian Pacemaker is located in the Brain
- Takes cues from the environment
- Light-Dark cycle: most prominent
- Circadian Trough: 0300-0500

### **Error Vulnerability**

Traditional view and solution

Dr. Petersen defines human error

Human error results from:
 an overload, a decision or traps

#### **Errors are not random events**

- Research Study:
- Aviation Maintenance

Hospital nurses and Patient Safety

#### Fatigue Management Program

- Human Factors
- Scheduling
- Education
- Commitment from Senior Mgt and operating personnel
- Reduces cost and improves profit

#### Conclusion

- Fatigue permeates our society
- Can not be eliminated
- Contributes to human error
- Physiological Mechanisms cause
- Fatigue Mgt Program manages risk
- Needs Commitment: Mgt & Labor
- Maintains Positive Safety Culture

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