

Abstract Third Triennial International Aircraft Fire and Cabin Safety
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An Update on Biodynamics Research Activities
at the FAA Civil Aerospace Institute

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Since the second Aircraft Fire and Cabin Safety Research Conference held in 1998, the FAA Civil Aeromedical Institute (CAMI) Biodynamics Research Team has been involved in a variety of research efforts associated with occupant injury protection in airplanes. Included in the CAMI research are topics related to child restraint systems, side facing seats, sport parachutists restraint improvements, vertical impact energy absorption methods for seat structures, and the development of modifications to the Hybrid III anthropomorphic test dummy for use in airplane seat certification programs. Summaries of these projects will be presented, and publications detailing the research will be identified. Current as well as future projects will also be discussed.

Biographical Info:

Van Gowdy has been the supervisor/team coordinator of the CAMI Biodynamics Research Laboratory for 20 years. He has authored numerous technical papers related to improvements in aircraft seat/restraint systems. Mr. Gowdy has also directed various dynamic impact test programs associated with the FAA's efforts to improve and refine regulatory and policy activities in the area of occupant safety. He was awarded the DOT Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement in 1997 for his research on child safety seats. Mr. Gowdy holds a BS from the University of Oklahoma.