

Robert Ochs is a Mechanical Engineer with the Fire Safety Team at the FAA Technical Center. He has been affiliated with the Fire Safety Team since 2001, when he was a summer intern assisting FAA engineers with performing aircraft fuel tank flammability experiments. Upon completion of his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University in 2002, Robert was awarded a graduate fellowship from the FAA, which allowed him to continue his studies towards a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University, with a concentration on Fluid Thermal Science. The research for his thesis was performed at the FAA Tech Center under the guidance of the Fire Safety Team, and was focused on studying fuel vaporization and condensation within a simulated aircraft fuel tank and verifying calculations with experimental data. After completion of his M.S. in 2005, Robert was hired full time by the Fire Safety Team, and has since been working to update aircraft material fire test methods, including the development and refinement of the next-generation fire test burner, analysis of the fire test burner with advanced flow visualization techniques, development of a flame propagation test method for composite fuselage aircraft, and developing a systematic approach to defining small parts in aircraft cabins.