

# NTSB makes 7 recommendations for Reno Air Races

By Martha Bellisle, Reno Gazette-Journal

The National Transportation Safety Board has not yet determined what caused last year's deadly crash at the Reno National Championship Air Races, but its chairwoman recommended on Tuesday seven changes she said would make the races safer for pilots and spectators.

The pilots should receive special G-force training and perhaps wear G-suits to help them deal with race conditions, NTSB chairwoman Deborah Hersman said during a press conference. The course should also be changed to keep spectators away from the flight path, she said.

Hersman also said the Federal Aviation Administration needs to fix its rules to clarify whether spectators must be 500 feet from the flight path, or 1,000 feet. Race officials need to change their system to make sure that problems found during prerace technical inspections are fixed and documented. And the aircraft should undergo an engineering evaluation that to show that the plane can handle the race stress, she said.

"Our investigation revealed that this pilot in this airplane had never flown at this speed on this course," Hersman said. "We are issuing a safety recommendation to ensure that pilots and their modified airplanes are put through their paces prior to race day."

The pilot and 10 people on the ground were killed in the crash of the Galloping Ghost on Sept. 16, and at least 70 people were injured. Many suffered amputations and severe lacerations from flying shrapnel.

**Read the whole story**