



Hidden Hazards in Aircraft Parts

When handling aircraft parts and components, whether packed for shipment or installed on an aircraft, be alert to hazardous materials (hazmats) that may be present. Despite strict federal regulations requiring proper labeling and packaging, potential hazards may be present in almost any part of the aircraft.

Don't let accidents happen to you!



Hydraulic System

Hydraulic fluids and fluid remnants, particularly in reservoirs, actuators and pumps.

Fuel System

Fuel remnants in Fuel Control Units, carburetors, pumps, flow meters, valves, and tanks.

Electrical System

- Auxiliary Power Units, transformers, and generators can contain flammable substances.
- Batteries contain caustic chemicals such as alkali.



Aircraft Interiors

- Compressed oxygen bottles and cylinders (both portable and fixed) in the attendant stations.
- Chemical oxygen generators in certain types of passenger seats, overhead Passenger Service Units, lavatories, and crewmember smoke hoods can create intense heat when activated.
- Fire extinguishers in the galleys, closets, attendant stations, and cockpit.
- Smoke detectors contain small amounts of radioactive materials.
- Exit signs and aisle lighting contain radioactive tritium.
- Lavatories can pose biological hazards.



Safety / Evacuation Systems

- Self-inflating escape slides and life rafts contain explosive charges and pressurized gas cylinders.
- First aid kits contain a variety of drugs and chemicals requiring cautious handling.

Fire Suppression System

Watch for pressurized containers and potentially dangerous gases in:

- Fire extinguishers in the galleys, closets, attendant stations, and cockpit.
- Halon fire extinguishers in the cargo compartment.
- Fire bottles in the Auxiliary Power Unit, cargo compartment, and lavatory waste containers.

Fire extinguishing systems often employ explosive cartridges, actuators, or "squibs."

Avionics / Instruments

- Flight data recorders and other devices often contain lithium batteries.
- Transmitters and transceivers can contain flammable or radioactive substances.
- Altimeters can contain radioactive isotopes.
- Thermometers contain poisonous mercury.

Engines

Engines contain a variety of hazards, to include exciters/starters of depleted uranium, beryllium bearings, batteries, and waste oil.

Airframe / Control Surfaces

- Airframe ballast weights and control surface counterweights frequently contain depleted uranium.
- Off-wing escape slides employ explosive charges and pressure vessels for inflation.

Other Chemical Hazards

A variety of dangerous chemicals can be found in, on, and in association with aircraft parts and components:

- Fuel and oil.
- Rain repellent & deicing solutions.
- Paints, primers, thinners, topcoats, reducers.
- Solvents, strippers, degreasers, penetrants, acids.
- Sealants, adhesives, hardeners.
- Cleaning solutions.
- Refrigerants.
- Insecticides.



How can I find out more?

- Contact the FAA's Hazardous Materials Information Line at (800) 467-4922.
- Contact ICAO Dangerous Goods Office at (518) 954-8099.
- Review IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations Web Site at <http://www.iata.org/cargo/dg/index.htm>.
- Contact the manufacturer.
- Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet accompanying chemicals.
- Consult Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 172, for a list of hazardous materials and substances that must be declared and specially labeled for shipment.