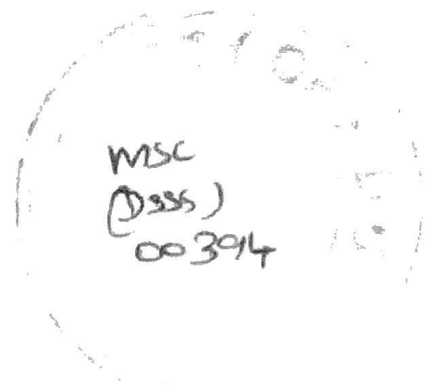


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ABSTRACT



The purpose of this study was to evaluate the degree of emergency preparedness at domestic airports in Sri Lanka, especially considering the foreseen increase in risks due to increasing flight operations. As the airport management in many domestic airports, it is the responsibility of SLAF to prepare and execute the airport emergency plan and keep the required degree of readiness. This is also against the silhouette of aviation related accidents and incidents occurring within the global and local contexts that demands better readiness to cater possible disastrous occurrences. The study used the case study design encompassing the population of interest being the emergency participants of the domestic airports of Sri Lanka. Questionnaires were distributed to gather data from on aerodrome participant whereas interviews through open ended questions were conducted to collect data from selected key authorities. The quantitative data was stratified into areas which were then interpreted into frequency distribution tables. Data from interviews was coded and classified through categorizing and indexing. The results were presented by use of histograms and general statements. The study revealed a statutory gap on the governing of the civil aircraft operations on the SLAF administer airports which has created an ambiguity on the standard of the existing safety preparedness measures for the civil aviation requirement. Further, the study discovered that whilst the aerodromes have practiced sound measures to ensure emergency preparedness, it still remain incomplete. This was chiefly proven by inadequate preparation exclusively in rescue and investigation related, limited participation of community in planning, inadequate collaboration among participants and lacklustre adherence to regulations. Further, in generally to energize emergency preparedness the responsible institutes are recommended to allocate more resources, accommodate regular drills, continuation of staff and public awareness trainings, pay more emphasize on coordination/ cooperation and inculcate habit of adherence to regulations.

Key Words: emergency preparedness, domestic airports, SLAF, accidents and incidents, sound measures, incomplete, statutory gap, rescue and investigation

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