



**Association of Professional
Flight Attendants**

Representing the Flight Attendants of American Airlines

March 2016

Recognizing & Responding to Unusual Odors or Fumes in the Aircraft Cabin

APFA's National Safety & Security Department has been participating in monthly teleconference meetings to review all reported AA Cabin Odor Events. Due to the increase of reported events involving a cabin odor and/or fumes that have been adversely affecting our members, our APFA National Safety & Security Chair, along with our APFA National Health Chair and APFA National IOD (Injury on Duty) Chair, have been meeting with company representatives addressing our concerns on the number of reported cabin air quality events and has successfully convinced American Airlines to create a committee involving all the necessary stake holders. This committee will be designated to address all aspects of cabin air quality events. The Cabin Odor Committee are comprised of; APFA Health, IOD and Safety & Security Departments, APA Aeromedical, AA Flight Department, AA Flight Service Department, AA Safety/Security Environmental (SSE), AA Tech-Ops (maintenance) AA Worker's Compensation and AA Aircraft Dispatch.

The Cabin Odor Committee will be meeting monthly to collectively work together to ensure every measure is being followed in the event investigation as well as the resolution process regarding the cause factors of the event.

Communication and education will be key factors in the process of addressing and working to reduce cabin air quality occurrences. Many of you have reached out to us wanting to know what to do in the event you suspect you may be involved in a cabin odor event. APFA Safety & Security, along with APFA IOD and APFA Health, have developed the enclosed Cabin Air Quality lanyard card which includes the following guidelines for Flight Attendants to follow when a possible cabin odor/fume event occurs:

1. If the aircraft is at the gate, and there are no passengers onboard, step off the aircraft and contact the Flight Service Daily Operations desk at IOC (888) 222-4737. Tell them that there is an unexplained odor in the aircraft. It is a good idea to proceed to the boarding area, to limit your exposure.
2. If you detect any abnormal odor or see any smoke or a haze in the cabin after leaving the gate, follow the procedures outlined in the Inflight Manual, and notify the Captain immediately. Be sure to be very specific in the details provided to the Pilots.
3. If immediately following the flight you begin to experience any physical symptoms contact the Flight Service Daily Operations at (888) 222-4737 to report the event and your illness/ injury in order to receive the necessary assistance in seeking immediate medical treatment at the nearest hospital.
4. Each Flight Attendant should file the applicable AMR Event Report for all odor/fume events, and if necessary, file the IOD/OJI claim with your Flight Service Manager. Visit the Flight Service website, and click on the Safety and Security link on the left side of the homepage to access AMR Event Reports. Flight Attendants may voluntarily report their specific safety concern regarding the odor/fume event to the Cabin ASAP program for review by AA, APFA and the FAA. The Cabin ASAP Reporting form can also be found under the Event Reporting section on the Safety and Security page of Flight Service.
5. Please also send reports of suspected odor/fume events to cabinair@apfa.org.

In Safety and Solidarity,

Bellia Peckson
APFA National IOD Chair

Catherine Sharp
APFA National Health Chair

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