

## **LEVEL BEST CAMPAIGN\***

Level busts are a problem, and YOU could hold the solution – that’s the message now being communicated to the pilot and controller communities by a NATS team. The team, working from the principles of an ACE (Action for Continuous Excellence) team, has put together a package which addresses the main causal factors of Level Busts.

A ‘Level Bust’ is defined as ‘a deviation of 300 feet or more from an assigned level’, and is one of NATS’ highest priority safety issues at the moment.

The team, sponsored by Ian Hall and led by Sharon Dominic (a watch manager at TC) has contributions from pilots, controllers, SRG, and the MOD. The outcome is a variety of initiatives to publicise and raise awareness of the problem of Level Busts.

Most Level Bust events result, not from one individual error, but from several minor errors or variations from safe operating methods – the ‘error chain’. If, in the period prior to each event, best practice had been employed to eliminate one link in the ‘chain’, the event would have been avoided. This is how the ‘Level Best’ campaign aims to reduce the risk of Level Busts.

The awareness campaign follows on from previous SRG campaigns in 1994 and 1997 and will, hopefully, be seen by most controllers and airline pilots based in this country, and many from abroad. The presentation includes real radar footage of Level Bust incidents and this, combined with excellent graphics, designed by Chris Kaley of TC’s training section, makes for a very powerful and memorable 40 minute presentation. Comments from airline managers who have seen it indicate that it changed their perception of the Level Bust problem, and that they would be extremely keen to use this NATS tool to educate their pilots and help reduce the number of Level Busts incidents.

Other initiatives include a leaflet which will be included with CHIRP next month raising the issue in the aviation community, and a website which is being set up by the end of the year (which will be accessible from the NATS internet site).

You can contact the team at [Level.Bust@nats.co.uk](mailto:Level.Bust@nats.co.uk); if you want to know any more, or if you have any comments, or experiences you would like to tell them about – your input would be greatly valued.

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