

Aircraft Crash

CHAPTER 8.1

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Approved by: Chief of Fire Rescue

- A. To establish guidelines for the handling of emergency incidents with the airport personnel.
- B. To establish an Incident Command Procedure for emergency incidents at the airport.

POLICY

- A. The fire department shall follow these guidelines in working with airport personnel in the handling of emergency incidents at the airport.
- B. The fire department shall follow these guidelines to insure the safety of personnel while operating on the airport.

PROCEDURE

A. UPON ARRIVAL

- 1.
 - a) Report on conditions
 - b) Size up conditions
 - c) Request additional assistance if needed
 - d) Establish an operational perimeter
 - e) Establish a command post

B. SAFETY

- 1. Full protective clothing and breathing apparatus.
- 2. Use proper procedures for crossing taxiways and active runways.
- 3. Beware of the propellers, rotors and jet exhaust.
- 4. Do not approach military aircraft from the front. They may be loaded with ordinance.
- 5. Follow the directions of the CFR (Crash-Fire-Rescue) Crew if on scene.
- 6. Beware of fuel spills and vapor clouds.
- 7. Be prepared for possible explosions.
- 8. Keep personnel away from aircraft if not participating with the incident.

C. OPERATIONS

1. Dispatch shall notify the proper support agencies in the event of an alarm for an in-flight emergency.
2. If an aircraft crashes, on the airport property or off, the exact location and best approach route should be relayed to responding apparatus and agencies.
3. If a Command Post is established, the highest-ranking chief officer shall assume the Incident Commanders position.
4. If there is no fire:
 - a) Use foam on spilled fuel and aircraft to minimize ignition potential.
 - b) If foam is not available, flush spilled fuel away from cabin or cockpit and keep fog streams in operation while effecting rescue of occupants. (Remember; keep in mind where the spilled fuel may be running.)
 - c) Take precautions against possible fuel ignition.
 - d) Set up a safety perimeter around the incident site.
 - e) Try to determine if there are any hazardous materials on board the aircraft.
5. If there is a fire:
 - a. Approach from windward, if possible.
 - b. Use foam if available.
 - c. If foam is not available, use fog streams to drive away fire from occupants and to cover firefighters on nozzles and those attempting rescue.
 - d. Protect exposures.
 - e. Set up a safety perimeter around the incident site.
 - f. Try to determine if there are any hazardous materials on board the aircraft.

Gainesville Regional Airport Alert Levels are listed below:

Alert 1 – Indicates that an aircraft is approaching the airport in minor difficulty. Fire/Rescue units stand by on the station ramp.

Alert 2 – Indicates that an aircraft is approaching the airport in major difficulty. Fire/Rescue units deploy to pre-determined locations.

Alert 3 – Indicates that an aircraft accident/incident has occurred or is imminent on or near the airport. This definition also includes aircraft fires not involving a crash, aircraft off the runway, etc.