

# PROCEDURE MANUAL

## 06-05



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

## Investigating Aircraft Accidents

**Purpose:** This manual provides guidance and procedures for members investigating accidents involving aircraft, as well as the enforcement of aeronautics codes.

**Effective Date:** April 19, 2022

## Table of Contents

---

### Investigating Aircraft Accidents

<b>Section 1: Aircraft Accidents</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Report to Operations	1
1.2 Notification to Owner and Guarding Aircraft	1
1.3 Airline Accidents	2
1.4 Investigation/Conduct at the Scene	2

## Definitions:

---

None

## Section 1: Aircraft Accidents

---

### 1.1 Report to Operations

- a. Immediately upon receipt of a report of an aircraft accident, the member receiving the report shall render all possible aid and ensure that, through proper channels, the Intelligence Operations Division (Operations Section) is notified.
- b. Upon receipt of a report of an aircraft accident, the post shall notify the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Flight Standards District Office, which is responsible for investigating the accident.
  - i. FAA Contacts: In southeastern Michigan, including the counties of Genesee, Ingham, Lenawee, Monroe, Sanilac, Washtenaw, Hillsdale, Jackson, Livingston, Oakland, Shiawassee, Wayne, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, St. Clair, and Tuscola; call [East Michigan Flight Standards District Office \(EMIFSDO\)](#), 734-487-7222, during normal hours. During non-business hours and weekends, call the [Federal Aviation Administration, Regional Operations Center \(ROC\)](#), 817-222-5006.
  - ii. In the remainder of the state, call [Grand Rapids Flight Standards District Office \(GRRFSDO\)](#), 616-954-6657, during normal working hours. During non-business hours and weekends, call the Federal Aviation Administration, Regional Operations Center (ROC), 817-222-5006.
- c. The post shall advise the Operations Section of the time of notification and which FSDO or Flight Service Station was notified.

### 1.2 Notification to Owner and Guarding Aircraft

- a. The owner of the aircraft involved in the accident, if not in the plane or a witness to the accident, shall be notified so proper disposition of the aircraft may be made at the earliest possible time. The aircraft shall not be moved, however, until authorized by the FAA or [National Transportation Safety Board \(NTSB\)](#).

- b. When military aircraft are involved in an accident resulting in death or injury to the extent that the personnel of such aircraft are incapacitated, a guard shall be posted until military authorities take charge or until military authorities decide that a guard is not necessary.
- c. When the accident involves a civilian aircraft resulting in death or injury, an enforcement member from the investigating post shall be assigned to guard the scene until properly relieved following notification of the FAA.

### 1.3 Airline Accidents

When a passenger-carrying airliner is involved in an accident that results in the death or serious injury of persons, the enforcement member receiving the report of the crash shall immediately notify the post and district commanders.

- a. The post commander shall take command of the situation or the department resources at the scene in support of the incident commander.
- b. The post commander or designee shall keep the district commander informed on such matters as the seriousness of the accident, the need for additional equipment or personnel, and the general conditions that exist.
- c. The district commander shall assess the situation to determine if the district commander should personally take command.

### 1.4 Investigation/Conduct at the Scene

- a. Upon arrival at the scene of an aircraft accident, the investigating enforcement member shall take command of the situation until relieved by a superior authority. When other agencies are at the scene and in command, all reasonable assistance shall be rendered to such agencies by members of this department.
- b. The scene shall be made secure from spectators in order to preserve all evidence and to ensure the safety of all persons, especially considering the potential danger of fire or explosion.
- c. Injured persons shall be immediately cared for and arrangements made for their transportation to a hospital or other place where they may receive proper medical treatment.
- d. The medical examiner shall be notified of fatal accidents, and the investigating enforcement members shall cooperate with the medical examiner and hospital authorities in notifying relatives of the injured or deceased. When notification of relatives outside the district area is necessary, the information may be given to the Operations Section for such notification or referral to the proper authorities.
- e. If the investigating enforcement member has probable cause to believe that the accident was the result of reckless operation of the aircraft, operating under the influence, or another violation of the State Aeronautics Code, enforcement action shall be taken in accordance [MCL 259.1-259.208](#), as amended.

---

**Review Responsibility:** Field Operations Bureau

**Accreditation Standards:** CALEA