

AIRCRAFT MISHAP RESPONSE FOR WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

Pre-Mishap Preparedness

- Know what your role may be if there is an aircraft (AC) mishap on your fire
- Establish an AC mishap guide or plan
- Share the guide/plan with staff & train on response

Communications

- Declare the emergency on the command channel, request that the channel is used for emergency traffic only
- Be prepared to relay a Medical Incident Report
- Do not use victims' names on the radio

Initial Actions

- Protect life, property, and evidence
- Have trained personnel attempt to shut down aircraft engine if still running
- Only approach aircraft if safe to do so
- Provide basic first aid and fire protection if able
- Notify local fire dispatch of emergency, ensure emergency response agencies are being notified (fire dept., EMS, air medical, rescue, etc.)
- Request two 800 MHz talk groups if appropriate – (operations and staging)
- Request aerial observation as needed
- Utilize tracked vehicles to access remote points

Incident Command System

- Utilize unified command
- Establish an "IWI IC"
- Assign a staging area manager
- Consider the need for a public information officer (PIO) to handle media relations

Secondary Actions

- Consider the need for a Temporary Flight Restriction
- Establish a security perimeter around the accident scene
- Protect and prevent the disturbance of wreckage, debris, and ground scars except to preserve life, rescue the injured, or protect the wreckage from further damage



Prior to NTSB Arrival on Scene, Restrict Access only to Authorized Personnel

- FAA
- Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS
- Medical Examiner/Coroner
- Other Emergency Services Agencies

After NTSB arrival on scene, no access allowed without NTSB authorization

Hazmat / Biohazard

Potentially dangerous materials that might be present (wear appropriate PPE) may include but are not limited to:

- Fuel
- Hydraulics
- Batteries
- Body fluids

Wreckage Documentation (if possible)

Use best judgment to:

- Obtain aircraft registration number
- Obtain number of patients/casualties
- Photograph or video the overall wreckage including cockpit
- Photograph or video any ground scars or marks made by the aircraft - do not share or post photos to social media

Injured/Fatalities

- Coordinate with the NTSB prior to the removal of fatalities
- Local authorities normally retain the responsibility for the release of victims' names