

**MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

**2024**



**AIRCRAFT CRASH, SEARCH, AND RESCUE GUIDE**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**This guide establishes the actions to take in the event of:**

- **Overdue Aircraft**
- **Downed Aircraft**

**The scope of this guide outlines the basic procedures necessary to activate all emergency, crash, search, rescue and associated support services as rapidly and orderly as possible.**

**Each category lists priorities and actions to follow.**

- **This guide should be posted in a manner / place that is accessible to whoever might need it.**
- **The names / phone numbers should be posted in pencil and updated periodically.**

**SOMEONE'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON YOUR ACTIONS.**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

# OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

Note: Aircraft may be considered overdue after 30 minutes have elapsed beyond Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA). Refer to Automatic Flight Following (AFF), check airstrips / airports, FAA Control Towers, etc. along the flight route before a report of an overdue aircraft is turned in to any agency outside of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Although one or two items in the sequence may be unknown at the time, START THE ACTION. Keep an accurate written log or fill in the blanks as best you can.

As much as possible obtain the following information on the overdue aircraft:
1. Name of pilots:
2. Name of passenger(s), How many?
3. Aircraft registration number "N"
4. Type of aircraft
5. Color of aircraft
6. Type of mission
7. Point of takeoff and time
8. Last known location, time, latitude and longitude
9. Date and time aircraft due at destination
10.Amount of fuel on board or the maximum flight time for aircraft
11.Was flight plan filed, with FAA or someone else?
Caution: Do not announce over the radio the names of individuals in overdue aircraft.

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# OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

## OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

Contact Dispatch request they notify the following individuals.

Title	Cell Phone	Office Number
Dispatch		
DNRC Air Operations Chief Pilot	Tal Williams (406) 461-5590	Tal Williams (406) 444-4766
DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot	Chris Bryce (406) 459-7465	Chris Bryce (406) 444-0741
DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot	Dave Bebich (406) 461-0141	Dave Bebich (406) 444-0780
DNRC Land Office Fire Program Manager		

## OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

## **DOWNED AIRCRAFT**

Although one or two items in the sequence may be unknown at the time, **START THE ACTION**. Keep an accurate log and fill in the blanks as best you can.

<b>1. Name of pilots:</b>
<b>2. Name of passenger(s), How many?</b>
<b>3. Aircraft registration number "N"</b>
<b>4. Type of aircraft</b>
<b>5. Color of aircraft</b>
<b>6. Type of mission</b>
<b>7. Location of accident. Give latitude and longitude, if known.</b> a. Locate on forest map. b. Locate on aviation sectional map. Plot direction and distance from very high frequency omnidirectional-range (VOR). Take radials from at least two VOR stations.
<b>8. Date and time of accident</b>
<b>9. Injuries of fatalities, if known. If information is given via radio, the names of deceased and or seriously injured will not be stated. Express the need for Coroner if there are fatalities.</b>
<b>10. Name, address and telephone number of person reporting accident.</b>
<b>11. Assistance that is at or on the way to the accident site.</b>
<b>12. See emergency medical services portion of this guide, if applicable.</b>

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## **DOWNED AIRCRAFT**

## DOWNED AIRCRAFT

Call Area Interagency Dispatcher. Inform the dispatcher if there are injuries or fatalities. If there are injuries do your best to describe the type and seriousness of the injury and requirement for patient transportation.

	Cell Phone	Office Number
<b>Dispatcher will notify:</b>		
<b>DNRC Air Operations Chief Pilot</b>	<b>Tal Williams (406) 461-5590</b>	<b>Tal Williams (406) 444-4766</b>
<b>DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot</b>	<b>Chris Bryce (406) 459-7465</b>	<b>Chris Bryce (406) 444-0741</b>
<b>DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot</b>	<b>Dave Bebich (406) 461-0141</b>	<b>Dave Bebich (406) 444-0780</b>
<b>DNRC Training and Safety Program Manager</b>	<b>Heath Gerber (406) 366-5738</b>	<b>Heath Gerber (406) 247-4454</b>
<b>DNRC Land Office Fire Program Manager</b>		
<b>Local Law Enforcement Officials. Inform them of injuries or fatalities and the requirement for security if needed</b>		

**DNRC Air Operations Chief Pilot will notify the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. If the Chief Pilot is not available, the DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot will notify the Director.**

<b>Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation</b>		<b>Amanda Kaster (406) 444-1948</b>
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## DOWNED AIRCRAFT

## **DOWNED AIRCRAFT ACTION CHECKLIST**

**NOTE: This checklist is to be used for action that may need to be taken. It may require immediate action, or it may not be a priority.**

<b>1. Provide first aid to injured and prepare for transport as soon as possible.</b>
<b>2. Request an ambulance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a. Ambulance helicopter</b></li><li><b>b. Ground Ambulance</b></li><li><b>c. Ambulance fixed-wing</b></li></ul>
<b>3. Secure accident site:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a. Use local Law Enforcement or DNRC provided officials.</b></li><li><b>b. Allow only authorized personnel on crash site.</b></li><li><b>c. Do not disturb wreckage.</b></li><li><b>d. Prepare a helibase. Assign qualified personnel to manage.</b></li></ul>
<b>4. Identify all witnesses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a. Name</b></li><li><b>b. Address</b></li><li><b>c. Telephone number</b></li><li><b>d. Record or write down witnesses' statements.</b></li></ul>
<b>5. Establish communications with rescue personnel.</b>
<b>6. Arrange for services of a qualified photographer.</b>
<b>7. Keep a record of all actions and times completed and give to accident investigation team.</b>

## **DOWNED AIRCRAFT ACTION CHECKLIST**

## Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Helicopter Ambulance Request Information

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Although one or two items in the sequence may be unknown at the time, **START THE ACTION.**

<b>1. Call 911</b>
<b>2. Number of patients</b>
<b>3. Type or extent of injuries, are they conscious or bleeding</b>
<b>4. Type of medical personnel on scene</b>
<b>5. Latitude / Longitude</b>
<b>6. Location / Elevation</b>
<b>7. Landmark / Distance</b>
<b>8. Helicopter landing area and condition</b>
<b>9. Weather conditions</b>
<b>10. Ground contact name / telephone number</b>
<b>11. Radio frequency on scene</b>
<b>12. Other aircraft in the area</b>

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**



Crash search and rescue planning includes good prevention programs. The following is a recommended checklist to be used.

<b>1. Aircraft Crash Search and Rescue guide</b> a. Posted and visible b. Telephone numbers current
<b>2. Hazard map</b> a. Posted and visible b. Current information c. Available to all aviation personnel
<b>3. Photo and diagram of airport and helibase</b>
<b>4. Hospital with helipad</b> a. Latitude / Longitude b. Flight routes, all headings will be magnetic and distance in nautical miles c. Hazards d. Telephone number e. Radio frequencies used
<b>5. Fixed wing and helicopter parking areas will be marked</b>
<b>6. Fire extinguishers</b> a. Proper type b. Proper size for operations c. Inspected and operational d. Ready, available and visible
<b>7. First Aid kit</b> a. Available and visible b. Complete and up to date c. Litter available
<b>8. Signs posted</b> a. Flammable b. No Smoking c. Authorized Personnel only d. Vehicle parking
<b>9. Cleanliness of airport ramp and helibase</b>

## **CRASH SEARCH AND RESCUE PLAN CHECKLIST**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Office Number</b>
<b>Dispatch</b>		
<b>DNRC Air Operations Chief Pilot</b>	<b>Tal Williams (406) 461-5590</b>	<b>Tal Williams (406) 444-4766</b>
<b>DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot</b>	<b>Chris Bryce (406) 459-7465</b>	<b>Chris Bryce (406) 444-0741</b>
<b>DNRC Aviation and Safety Training Pilot</b>	<b>Dave Bebich (406) 461-0141</b>	<b>Dave Bebich (406) 444-0780</b>
<b>DNRC Air Operations, Maintenance Officer</b>	<b>Nick Keilman (406) 431-0780</b>	<b>Nick Keilman (406) 444-0789</b>
<b>DNRC Headquarters</b>		<b>(406) 444-2074</b>
<b>DNRC Director</b>		<b>Amanda Kaster (406) 444-1948</b>
<b>DNRC Training and Safety Program Manager</b>	<b>Heath Gerber (406) 366-5738</b>	<b>Heath Gerber (406) 247-4454</b>
<b>Local FAA Tower</b>		
<b>Crash / Rescue at Airport</b>		
<b>FAA Flight Service Station</b>		<b>(800) 992-7433</b>
<b>Local FBO</b>		
<b>Local Sheriff's Office</b>		
<b>Montana Highway Patrol</b>		<b>(855) 647-3777</b>
<b>Local Hospital</b>		
<b>Additional Phone Numbers</b>		

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS