


VDFP General Aviation Firefighting for Structural Firefighters

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS
Aviation Firefighting for Structural Firefighters



Chapter 5
Coordinating with Other Agencies

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COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Learning Objectives

- Explain the police agency's role at aircraft accident scenes
- Define the FAA and explain its role
- Define the NTSB and explain its role
- Explain the recommended procedures for preserving the aircraft accident scene

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COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Learning Objectives

- Define an airport administrator's role
- Explain how an airport ARFF unit can help with an aircraft accident off airport property
- Identify CISD and what its role is
- Explain what an FBO is

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COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

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Introduction	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This chapter examines some of the resources available to the local fire department when it is faced with the unfamiliar task of mitigating an emergency involving general aviation (GA) aircraft	
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Mutual Aid	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A term used to describe the ability to provide manpower and/or equipment when asked by another fire department• Small to medium fire departments facing an incident involving GA aircraft may not have adequate resources for even a simple scenario such as four injured people on a GA aircraft• Another situation may be a large fuel spill from aircraft, mobile fuel tanker, or storage tanks at an airport	
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Automatic Aid	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Another type of mutual aid where no action is needed to obtain additional resources by prior arrangement• This may be needed when an airport does not have on site fire protection• Pre-determined responses to airports and airport emergencies are based on local need and available resources	
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Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Units

- Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) crews are required at some airports
- These requirements can be found in Federal Aviation Requirements (FAR) Part 139
- FAR Part 139 can be used as a guideline for GA airports to provide fire protection
- ARFF stations have special fire equipment designed for aircraft fire fighting
- Near-by airport fire departments are a good resource for information and training

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Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Units



COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

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Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Units



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Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Units



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Police Agencies

- Local Police are generally the first law enforcement agency on the scene of a GA incident
- Duties may include crowd and traffic control and beginning an investigation
- Local Police generally contact State Police who then begin a formal investigation and secure the scene prior to the arrival of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

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Police Agencies



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Federal Agencies	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– A branch of the Department of Transportation that focuses on safety in aviation– This is done through creation and enforcement of rules and regulations– They investigate accidents that may violate these rules and regulations– They may be investigating partners with the NTSB which determine the cause so they may implement corrective measures	

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Federal Agencies	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Transportation Safety Board<ul style="list-style-type: none">– An independent federal agency that investigates the causes of accidents and serious incidents involving aircraft– Notification usually is made by law enforcement agencies however fire and rescue may be involved– Not all incidents require the NTSB to investigate, typically they are called in for serious injury, death, or significant damage to the aircraft	

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Federal Agencies	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Transportation Safety Board<ul style="list-style-type: none">– When notified, the NTSB will need the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of aircraft• Nationality of aircraft• Registration marks (i.e. "N" number)• Name of owner and operator• Name of pilot in command• Date and time of accident• Last point of departure and intended landing• Location of the aircraft (geographic reference)• Number of people on board, number killed, injured• Nature of accident, the weather, and the extent of the damage• Description of any explosives, radioactive material, or other dangerous cargo	

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Federal Agencies	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Transportation Safety Board<ul style="list-style-type: none">– In order to preserve the wreckage site as much as possible until the NTSB can take custody of the scene, it should only be disturbed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To remove trapped or injured people• To protect wreckage from further damage• To protect the public from injury– When necessary to disturb the scene, sketches, photographs, or videotape can be used to document the scene, or changing of switch positions, etc.	
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Federal Agencies	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coast Guard<ul style="list-style-type: none">– This is the resource that needs to get involved if an aircraft goes down into any navigable waterway– Has the expertise and equipment for any rescue or salvage operation over water– If your airport is near a body of navigable water, you should contact the Coast Guard to find out it's nearest station and resources	
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Airport Administrators	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each airport has someone who is in charge of it's operation• This person is very knowledgeable and may provide detailed information about the airport environment• Firefighters should tour the airport beginning with the administration, they can help with the drafting of an airport emergency plan	
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Fixed Base Operations	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FBO's are an excellent source of information for fire companies• They deal with aircraft daily and have pilots, mechanics, and ground crews that are willing to share their knowledge of aircraft and systems in case of emergencies	
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Medical Resources	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GA aircraft typically carry less than a dozen passengers, still a significant number in case of an accident• Planning and mutual aid will probably be necessary in most areas• Medical resources can include private ambulance services, local hospitals, aero-medical services, and the local coroner	
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Medical Resources	COORDINATING WITH OTHER AGENCIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) Teams<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Aircraft accidents with fatalities often have an extraordinary impact on fire and rescue personnel– CISD Teams can offer assistance to those who have been exposed to the extreme stress of an aircraft accident– Emergency crews should have their local CISD contact information ready and find out what service they can provide	
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Summary

- The resource of a local fire department may not be enough in case of a GA aircraft emergency
- Mutual and Automatic aid may be needed
- The FAA and other federal agencies are important resources
- Medical assistance and expertise should be identified ahead of time
- CISD teams are important to help emergency crews cope with the aftermath of an aviation disaster

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