

**STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL ORDER**

**DOWNED AIRPLANES**  
**SUBJECT**

**DATE:** March 1, 2005

**NO:** M-3

**FROM:** CHIEF ERIC JONES

**TO:** ALL PERSONNEL

**INDEX:** Airplane Crashes  
Procedure for Plane Crashes  
Landing of Aircraft in City  
Downed Airplanes

**I. POLICY**

- A. In the event of a downed aircraft within the City of Stockton, the Stockton Police Department will assist whatever agency conducts the investigation.

**II. LAWS**

- A. The laws regarding aircraft are controlled by the Federal Aviation Administration (F.A.A) and are enforced by that agency.
- B. The National Transportation Safety Board (N.T.S.B.) is responsible for the investigation of all civil aircraft accidents.
- C. The military will investigate any accident when military aircraft are involved.

**III. PROCEDURE**

- A. Person receiving notification of a crash.
1. When a member of the Stockton Police Department receives information relating to an airplane crash, the following information will be obtained.
    - a. The location of the crash.
    - b. The extent of injuries and fatalities.
    - c. Whether a fire exists.
    - d. The identity of the person relaying the information (name, address, and telephone number).
- B. Telecommunications Center responsibilities
1. Upon notification of an airplane crash within the City limits, the Telecommunications Center will:
    - a. Dispatch sufficient units to the scene but retain an adequate number to handle regular police business.
    - b. Dispatch Police Reserves and/or off-duty personnel if persons at the crash scene determine more assistance is needed.
  2. Dispatch ambulances as needed or requested.

3. Notify the Watch Commander or Acting Watch Commander.
    - a. The Watch Commander or Acting Watch Commander will notify the Chief's office via the chain of command.
  4. Alert hospitals if many persons are injured.
  5. Notify the Sheriff-Coroner's Office if fatalities are known.
  6. Notify the Fire Department.
  7. Notify the F.A.A. Regional Office in Los Angeles. Provide the complaint taker information regarding down aircraft and complaint taker will provide additional information regarding resources, contact number, and make the proper notifications.
    - a. The F.A.A. Regional Office will notify the proper government agency.
  8. Notify the F.B.I. or the Sacramento Field Office.
- C. Responsibilities of police units responding to the scene.
1. The first officer to arrive at the crash scene shall:
    - a. Care for the injured.
    - b. Secure the area as much as possible. (2,000 feet radius of the crash if nuclear weapons, warheads or material is involved.)
    - c. Assess the general conditions and notify the Telecommunications Center of the following:
      1. Request additional assistance if necessary.
      2. Exact location of the crash.
      3. The best approach to the scene.
      4. Number of injured persons to determine how many ambulances are necessary.
      5. Number of dead.
      6. Nature and severity of any fires.
      7. Type of aircraft (airplane, jet aircraft, glider, or helicopter).
      8. If military, which branch.
      9. Aircraft identification number.
    - d. Notify CAL/OSHA as soon as possible.
- D. Duties of the officers at the crash scene
1. Officers at the scene shall:
    - a. Rescue the occupants and injured.

- b. Maintain radio communication with the Telecommunications Center and report on any new developments. (Generally accomplished by the Patrol Sergeant or officer in charge).
- c. Until the arrival of a Watch Commander or Command Officer, the Patrol Sergeant or Senior Officer will direct and deploy other units arriving at the scene.
- d. Guard the wreckage.
  - 1. No one will be allowed inside the crash area unless necessary for protection of life, fire fighting, or removal of mail or cargo when necessary to protect it from further damage.
  - 2. Any items removed will be retained for the Federal Air Safety Investigators or appropriate military service.
  - e. Under no circumstances, unless for the protection of life, will any aircraft or portion or any of its contents be moved until the National Transportation Safety Board Investigators give permission to do so.

E. Command and supervisory responsibilities

- 1. Command of the aircraft crash scene is vested jointly in the police department's command officer or supervisory officer at the scene, N.T.S.B., Bureau of Aviation Safety, F.A.A. Coordinator, and in the event of a fatality, the Coroner.
- 2. The ranking Police Department member at the crash scene will assume command of department personnel.
  - a. Ranking officer will assure that police responsibilities are accomplished, such as:
    - 1. Activate Incident Command per General Order B-5.
    - 2. Evacuation of inhabitants of buildings threatened by fire or explosions.
    - 3. Crowd and traffic control.
    - 4. Barricading and roping off the perimeter of the crash impact area. (2,000 foot radius if nuclear warheads, weapons or material is involved).
    - 5. Arrange for necessary lighting for night operations (Fire Department or Municipal Service Center).
    - 6. Determine whether a Field Command Post is necessary if so, establish.
    - 7. If military property is involved, the Flight Service Station will contact the appropriate service.

F. Reporting procedures.

- 1. The Command Officer, Watch Commander or Acting Watch Commander, in addition to other required reports, shall complete the "Report of Aircraft Accident (CDA Form 11)" as required by the California Department of Aeronautics.
  - a. The form must be submitted within 15 days after incident.
  - b. Instances will occur when all required information will not be available. The officer completing the form will be as complete and as comprehensive as possible.

- c. The following information is needed to complete the "Report of Aircraft Accident."
  - 1. The date, time, and location of the accident
  - 2. Name, address, and telephone number of the pilot and owner and pilot's certificate number.
  - 3. Type of aircraft--include manufacturer, model and identification number.
  - 4. Total number of persons on the aircraft.
  - 5. Name, address, and extent of injuries to occupants of airplane and persons on the ground.
  - 6. Damage to property.
  - 7. The existence of an aircraft liability policy or other form of liability protection covering the aircraft operation.
  - 8. If an aircraft policy is in effect, the name, and address of insurer or bonding firm. Include the policy number, period of coverage and the name of the individual or firm who was issued the policy.
- d. A supply of the "Report of Aircraft Accident" forms will be kept in the Field Operations secretary's office.

G. Emergency Public Information

- 1. Permit news media coverage.
  - a. Accredited news media may be permitted to enter and photograph the area as long as they do not interfere with rescue operations or touch or disturb the wreckage.
  - b. If military aircraft:
    - 1. Request that no photographs be taken until the arrival of Military Officials.
    - 2. Do not provide names of Armed Forces casualties.
    - 3. In the event that an Armed Forces Information Officer is not present, give media personnel the telephone number of the Office of Information on file with the Telecommunications Center.
- 2. Public inquiries referring to cause of the crash, passenger information, number of fatalities or injuries will be referred to:
  - a. The airline involved.
  - b. The N.T.S.B.
  - c. Bureau of Aviation Safety.
  - d. The Coroner.
  - e. The branch of military, if one is involved.

H. Landing of aircraft.

1. The landing of an aircraft at a location other than a designated airport not resulting in death or injury to any person or damage to any property shall not be classified as an aircraft accident but should be investigated for a possible law violation.
  - a. If a helicopter is to be landed on a one-time basis (other than an emergency), the following procedure has been established: The initial request is to be made to the City Manager's Office. The City Manager's Office will either notify Traffic Section or direct the applicant to Traffic Section for investigation and recommendation. The City Manager's Office also will notify the Fire Department.