

# Responding to an Aircraft Accident

## How to Support the NTSB

A Guide for Police and Public Safety Personnel

### UPON COMPLETION OF LIFE SAFETY ACTIVITIES

#### SECURE SCENE & PRESERVE EVIDENCE

#### CONTACT

NTSB and/or FAA Regional Comm Center

NTSB MAIN NUMBER • 202-314-6000

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM • Monday - Friday

NTSB Comm Center #

FAA Regional Comm Center # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Establish Inner and Outer Perimeter

- Protect property
- Prevent the disturbance of wreckage and debris except to preserve life, rescue the injured, or protect the wreckage from further damage
- Protect and preserve ground scars and marks made by the aircraft
- Admit Public Safety Personnel access to the wreckage to the extent necessary to preserve life, and/or stabilize HAZMAT
- Maintain a record of personnel who enter the accident site

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

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

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

#### BIOHAZARD/HAZMAT

- Potentially dangerous materials that might be present may include but are not limited to: Chemicals-Explosives-Biological-Radioactive materials, fuel, pressure vessels, compressed air, hydraulics, batteries, accumulators, igniters, oxygen systems, oxygen bottles, fire extinguishers, evacuation chutes, flares, composite materials, ballistic parachute systems, tires

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### Wreckage Documentation (if possible)

#### Use best judgment to obtain these goals

- Obtain aircraft registration number (N number)
- Obtain number of casualties
- Photograph or video the overall wreckage including cockpit starting at the initial point of impact if possible
- Photograph or video any ground scars or marks made by the aircraft

### Injured/Fatalities

- Coordinate with the NTSB prior to the removal of fatalities. If unable, document that part of the scene to be disturbed, including switch/control positions, and instrument/gauge readings

### Witness Documentation

- Obtain name / address / phone numbers (home & work)
- Obtain their location relative to the accident site
- Obtain description of what they observed or heard
- Obtain name of person reporting accident (911 Tapes)

### Media Relations

- Consistent with site security policies, only authorized emergency service individuals should be allowed on site
- No one should speculate on the cause of the accident
- Refer all media questions about the accident investigation to the NTSB
- Local authorities normally retain the responsibility for the release of victims' names



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