



Interagency Aviation Safety Alert



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Subject: Aircraft Search and Rescue Protocol
Area of Concern: Search and Rescue Coordination
Distribution: Aviation Managers and Dispatch Center Managers

Discussion: On February 1, 2005, the FAA awarded Lockheed Martin the contract to run the Flight Service Station (FSS) System. The contract includes all FSS in the contiguous United States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. The FSS in Alaska will continue to be operated by the FAA. The contract went into effect on October 1, 2005. Implementation of a modernized FSS, called Flight Services 21 (FS21), began in January 2007 and consists of three major hubs and 18 locations (down from 58).

Current procedures in the NFES-2659 require notification to the FSS in the event of an overdue or missing aircraft. However, with the change in FSS management, the FSS in the U.S. (excluding Alaska) is no longer the best point of contact for initiating an airborne search. A direct phone call to the appropriate Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) is the best course of action to initiate a SAR mission. The points of contact are:

Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Centers

Alameda, CA.	510-437-3701	Miami, FL.	305-415-6800
Boston, MA.	617-223-8555	New Orleans, LA.	504-589-6225
Cleveland, OH.	216-902-6117	Portsmouth, VA.	757-398-6390
Honolulu, HI.	808-535-3333	Seattle, WA.	206-220-7001
Juneau, AK.	907-463-2000	San Juan, PR.	787-289-2042

Air Force Rescue Coordination Center - 48 contiguous states

Tyndall AFB, FL.	850-283-5955
Toll-free	800-851-3051

Air Command Rescue Coordination Center - Alaska

Fort Richardson, AK. 907-428-7230
Outside Anchorage 800-420-7230

Joint Rescue Coordination Center - Hawaii

Honolulu JRCC 808-535-3333
HQ 14th CG District

In Alaska, the FSS will continue to be notified along with the appropriate RCC. Should agency aircraft be included in any search and rescue operation, coordination with the FSS and / or RCC is required.

Recommendations: The NFES-2659 will be amended to include notification to the RCC. This change will be included in the next revision of the Interagency Aviation Mishap Response Guide and Checklist.

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