

IF FATALITIES HAVE OCCURRED:

- Check with the coroner or their representative (usually the police) before taking any action to remove bodies
- Check with the ATSB or Defence Investigator-in-Charge to determine if there are any special requirements for in-situ pathological examination before removing bodies
- Carefully record the posture and position of each victim, with photographs, video and/or sketches
- Photograph or sketch any marks on the ground or wreckage that may be affected during the removal of any victims or the actions of attending emergency services personnel
- Leave the wreckage as undisturbed as possible when removing victims

NOTES

CHECKLIST

AVIATION ACCIDENT CHECKLIST



Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

CIVIL Ph: 1800 011 034



Australian Government

Department of Defence

MILITARY Ph: 02 6144 9199

WARNING

Be aware that an accident site may contain potential hazards. Do no more than is necessary to preserve life without endangering your own. Seek advice from the ATSB or Defence on any hazards that may be present.

WHAT TO DO:

Emergency response

Ensure normal emergency response notifications are completed:

Police, Fire (including HAZMAT), Ambulance; telephone: **000**

ATSB: **1800 011 034** or DDAAFS: **02 6144 9199**.

REMEMBER:

- Exercise extreme caution: aviation accident sites contain potential hazards including flammable and toxic materials and may also contain explosives
- Approach the aircraft cautiously, from upwind. This will help reduce your exposure to fumes and particulates. If possible, approach from the opposite direction of the aircraft's flight path
- Do no more than is necessary to preserve life without endangering your own. Seek advice from the ATSB or Defence on any hazards that may be present

NOTHING should be disturbed other than that necessary to rescue survivors or preserve life and suppress post-crash fires.

- Within the limits imposed by actions necessary to preserve life, photograph, video, sketch or make mental notes of wreckage to pass to the investigators, before disturbing it. DO NOT become a casualty yourself

- Note the location and condition of safety harnesses and positions of occupants before they are moved. Cut rather than unbuckle safety harnesses
- Every piece of the aircraft, its location and exact position, is important in determining the sequence of events and the contributing factors that led to the accident
- Secure the accident site by placing a cordon around all scattered wreckage (50 m), as well as other evidence such as marks made by the aircraft, and ground scars— important evidence can be gained from instrument readings, soot and fire patterns, the location of fatalities, ground scars and so on
- Obtain names, addresses, contact numbers and intended movements of witnesses, and note in particular any witnesses who may have photographic or video evidence of the accident
- If the aircraft is carrying chemicals (such as an agricultural aircraft) consult Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and approach the aircraft cautiously, from upwind: this will help reduce your exposure to fumes
- Be aware of powerlines that may have been struck during the accident—they may be lying on the ground and could be live