



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: MEADOWS FIELD ALERT RESPONSE		NO: H-1400	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: April 7, 2003	REVIEWED: 10/20/2020	REVISED: 11/13/2008	UPDATED: 10/20/2020

POLICY

It is the policy of the Kern County Sheriff's Office to support the Kern County Office of Airport's Emergency Plan. The Kern County Airport Emergency Plan has divided airport responses into three categories: Alert One-Minor aircraft difficulty, Alert Two-Major aircraft difficulty, and Alert Three-aircraft crash.

The primary responsibility of the Kern County Sheriff's Office, during an in-flight emergency or after the crash of an aircraft on Kern County airport property, is to provide scene security. Personnel from the Kern County Sheriff's Office will utilize the Standardized Emergency Management System to effectively and successfully manage the incident and will interact with the on-scene incident commander to liaison with responding units. It is the responsibility of the ranking deputy, after weighing the circumstances of the incident, to decide the scope of the response.

DIRECTIVE A:

Deputies responding to an aircraft alert at Meadows Field will follow the procedures outlined in this policy to provide an efficient, effective, and controlled response of Sheriff's resources. The Communications Center will maintain communications with Meadows Field. In order to ensure scene security, the ranking deputy may request mutual aid from the California Highway Patrol or the Bakersfield Police Department.

DIRECTIVE B:

Incident command at the scene of an aircraft accident at Meadows Field will be the responsibility of the Kern County Fire Department. Meadows Field personnel will identify the location of a crash site using reference to runways and taxiways (see attached site map, Attachment 1). Sheriff's units will not respond directly to the crash site and will only do so at the direction of the incident commander when it is deemed safe. Generally, units will stage at Kern County Fire station #62 for assignment. Airport fire or security personnel will escort Sheriff's units on airport property. While under escort, Sheriff's units will activate all emergency lights and maintain the 15-mile per hour limit unless otherwise directed. The incident commander can alter the access points for the response and change the staging area location.

DIRECTIVE C:

The following sections are the authorities to deny entrance to restricted airport property and an air operations area: Penal Code 602 (u) (1) entry to posted airport property is trespassing. County Ordinance 15.08.130 is an infraction, which states: “No person shall enter any air operations area of an airport without authorization from the director.”

DIRECTIVE D:

News media personnel will not be permitted access to the airport security area, taxiways, or runways by Sheriff’s personnel. Meadows Field administration or security personnel have the responsibility to authorize media access to restricted airport property. Media personnel will be directed to the airport terminal gate #20 where airport personnel will direct and or escort news media personnel to the established media area. Keep in mind that once airport personnel allow access to restricted airport property, media members should not be restricted beyond what is reasonably necessary to prevent interference with emergency personnel and for scene security.

PROCEDURE A - ALERT ONE:

- Aircraft in minor difficulty.
 - No response from Sheriff required. This is informational only in the event of change in category.

PROCEDURE B – ALERT TWO:

- Aircraft in major difficulty (e.g. engine on fire, faulty landing gear, etc.)
 - Meadows Field will notify the Communications Center.
 - Two units will be dispatched code three unless otherwise directed.
 - The first unit on scene will respond to gate 24 located on Sunnyside Court.
 - The unit will provide access for fire, medical and other emergency personnel.
 - Emergency personnel will be directed to the staging area at Kern County Fire Station #62.
 - The second unit will respond to the staging area at Kern County Fire Station #62 and set up a liaison with the on-scene incident commander ensuring scene security.
 - The on-duty supervisor and watch lieutenant will be notified.
 - The Meadows Field Deputy, if assigned, will be notified by the Communications Center of the alert.
 - The Meadows Field Deputy will maintain terminal security.

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PROCEDURE C – ALERT THREE:

- Aircraft has crashed on or near the airport.
 - Meadows Field will notify the Communications Center.
 - The Communications Center will assign a radio channel to the emergency.
 - Two units will be dispatched code three unless otherwise directed.
 - The first unit on scene will respond to gate 24 located on Sunnyside Court.
 - The unit will provide access for fire, medical and other emergency personnel.
 - Emergency personnel will be directed to the staging area at Kern County Fire Station #62.
 - The second and additional units will respond to the staging area at Kern County Fire Station #62 for security assignments at the direction of the ranking deputy at the scene.
 - The on-duty supervisor and watch commander will be dispatched to Kern County Fire Station #62 and set up a liaison with the on-scene incident commander to coordinate scene security until the emergency is resolved.
 - The Kern County Sheriff’s Public Information Officer (PIO) will be dispatched to the media staging area at the new terminal (3701 Wings Way). The PIO will coordinate with the lead PIO designated by the incident commander.
 - The Meadows Field Deputy, if assigned, will be notified by the Communications Center of the alert.
 - The Meadows Field Deputy will maintain terminal security.
 - There are many variables if the crash site is not on airport property. Use the Aircraft Crash Checklist (Attachment 2) established by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services as a guide to establish a coordinated response and a secure scene.

DIRECTIVE E:

The Kern County Department of Airports has developed and maintains an emergency plan to minimize the possibility and extent of personal injury and property damage on the airport during emergencies. To aid in the planning and training process, and further clarify the role of the Sheriff’s Office during an emergency, Sheriff’s Office personnel shall take part in the annual review of the Airport Emergency Plan and participate in a full exercise conducted every three years.

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AIRCRAFT CRASH CHECKLIST

This checklist is intended to assist the field supervisor with the initial response to an aircraft crash. It is recommended that *unified command* be established to ensure a coordinated response with other involved agencies. Local law enforcement will generally *not* have an investigative responsibility for aircraft crashes, but will provide perimeter control, site security, evidence protection, and facilitate response with the fire service, medical-rescue, and federal authorities that have investigative responsibility.

Situation Assessment:

Ensure that a situation estimate has been obtained and communicated to the communication center and that it contains the following information:

- Location of accident
- Type of structure involved
- Type of aircraft involved: military or civilian, passenger or cargo, helicopter or jet, private or commercial
- Class of aircraft: single engine or multiple
- Number of injuries and deaths if known
- Additional assistance needed: police, fire, medical, military, etc.
- Location of Command Post and Staging Area
- Best available ingress/egress routes for emergency personnel and vehicles

Special Considerations:

- Approach from up wind
- Do not approach on same path as aircraft
- Avoid breathing smoke, possible toxic materials
- Potential for fire/explosions
 - military aircraft may contain weapons, ammunition, ejection seats
 - no smoking or flares
- Crash site security, adequate control to keep unauthorized persons from the scene
- Traffic control, crowd control, perimeter control (keep a 2,000 foot clearance)
- Evacuation (at least 2,000 feet upwind)

Crash Site Management:

- Establish Command Post
- Restrict air traffic over scene
- Establish liaison with incident commander
- Identify all witnesses, obtain following data:
 - Time of crash
 - Location of witnesses at time of crash
 - Weather at time of crash
 - Aircraft direction in flight
 - Aircraft fire in flight
 - Explosion prior to crash
 - Location of objects falling from aircraft prior to crash
 - Impact angle and position of survivors
 - Anything removed from scene and by whom
- Deceased or injured victims may be displaced by impact. Conduct a thorough, wide search for survivors and other evidence
- Take photographs of scene
- Ensure all crash debris is protected, but do not disturb wreckage, evidence, deceased persons, body parts, or personal property unless advised to do so by the investigator in charge or the coroner in charge.

Subsequent Situation Assessment:

- Aircraft identification numbers, owner(s) of involved aircraft and involved structures
- Identification of pilot(s)
- Property damage
- Location of deceased and known survivors

Notification:

- Military if applicable
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Federal Aviation Administration
- All necessary fire/rescue services
- Hospitals of potential influx of patients
- County Coroner

MEADOWS FIELD EMERGENCY GATE MAP

