
REPORT UNAUTHORIZED LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for aviation safety in the United States and its territories. To help ensure the safety of persons and property on the ground and those onboard an unauthorized low-flying aircraft, the FAA asks anyone seeing an unauthorized low-flying aircraft to report that sighting to the nearest FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), the preferred notification point.

TO REPORT LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT IN ORMOND BEACH

Call the FAA Flight Standards District Office in Orlando at: 407-812-7700

The FAA takes seriously any complaint of an alleged violation of Federal Aviation Regulations. The FAA FSDO aviation safety inspector assigned to the case will require as much information as possible to help identify the aircraft in the alleged incident.

Please keep a record of any information you provide to the FAA. You may want to write out a brief statement describing what you saw before you contact FAA, to ensure that you can provide as much information as possible and to help you better organize the information. If your complaint results in an enforcement action, you may be required to testify or provide a written statement.

DESIRED INFORMATION

Provide the FAA with as much of the following information as possible. A brief summary of what happened, where it happened, when it happened, how it happened, and who did it (if known), will be important. The FSDO will use the information to determine if a regulatory violation occurred, and to help identify and locate the aircraft involved.

Please remember that not all low-flying aircraft are in violation of a regulation.

LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT REPORTING CHECKLIST

- What happened? Describe in detail.
- What was your estimate of the aircraft's altitude or height? How did you determine this estimate?
- Where did it happen? Describe the location in detail.
- When did it happen? Provide the date and time.
- What were the weather conditions at the time?
- How many times did the aircraft appear to be low? Did it continue to fly low in the area?
- What was the direction of flight?
- Who did it? List the name of the pilot or aircraft owner, if known.
- What was the aircraft's registration number?
- List all who witnessed the event. List names, telephone numbers, and addresses.
- Has the local police department been notified? Did a police officer witness the alleged incident? If so, list the name of the police department and the officer involved.
- Did you feel threatened?
- Was more than one aircraft involved? If so, provide data on each aircraft involved.

AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION AIDS

- What was the type of aircraft? (fixed wing airplane, helicopter, glider, balloon, airship, ultralight vehicle, seaplane)
- Was it military or civilian?
- Did you see a registration number? If so, what was it?
- List partial numbers if the complete number is not known.
- Was it a high-wing type aircraft or low-wing aircraft?
- What color was it? Did it have one or more other colors?
- Did it have any distinct markings, designs, or logos?
- Was it a jet powered aircraft or piston-powered aircraft?
- Did it have propellers?
- How many engines or propellers did it have?
- How large was the aircraft?
- If it was a helicopter, how many rotors did it have?
- If it was a helicopter, how many main rotor blades did it have?
- Was there anything unusual about the aircraft?

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- Did you take any photographs or video of the event? If so, what type and focal length of lens was used? If a zoom type lens was used, was the lens zoomed in or out?
- Were you able to zoom in on the aircraft's registration number to help identify the aircraft?
- Did you try to photograph or video the aircraft against a background that would show height such as against a tall building, tower, hill, mountain, or other such object to aid in determining the aircraft's altitude? Please note, it is preferable to photograph the aircraft using a "normal" lens setting to avoid any misleading images caused by the compressive effects of a zoom or telephoto lens.
- If an object is included in the photograph or video to help show the aircraft's height, do you know the object's height?
- If you photographed or videotaped the aircraft in flight from another aircraft, what was your aircraft's altitude when the photograph was taken or the video was made?
- If film was used to photograph the aircraft, it is better if the negatives are not cut into smaller sections. You can ask your photo lab not to cut the film.
- It is important to keep positive control of any type of recording media used to record the incident.

THE REGULATION

Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 91.119, Minimum safe altitudes, prohibits low flying except under the following conditions:

"Sec. 91.119 Minimum safe altitudes: General. Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes:

- (a) Anywhere. An altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface.
- (b) Over congested areas. Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.
- (c) Over other than congested areas. An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.
- (d) Helicopters. Helicopters may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section if the operation is conducted without hazard to persons or property on the surface. In addition, each person operating a helicopter shall comply with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the Administrator."