

Emergency procedures

These procedures are for when the pilot checks in and launches but no further messages are received for some reason. These procedures are available for download [here](#) in PDF form. Family or friends must know the web site address of your shared map! Be certain they know what it is and how use it.

If there is an accident, it would be the wrong time for a potential rescuer (family or friend) to have to figure out how the page works for first time. This is why training is important. Don't expect others to be able to make sense of the shared page if they are upset or worried.

It is important that your contacts, especially your coordinator, study these emergency procedures carefully before they are needed. If you have more than one contact, you should authorize just one person (and a backup) to coordinate things.

If there are any problems, the pilot must do everything possible to contact the coordinator.

1. If your contacts receive (or see) a "check in/OK/I have begun my trip" message but nothing more after about (4) hours (pilots rarely fly longer than that), something has happened – probably not good. Here is what the coordinator should now do.
2. Access the shared map web site of the pilot. Keep the tracking information available. Attempt to determine the time and coordinates of the pilot's last location. Study the tracking information carefully.
3. If the track messages show a continual change in location with no two locations the same, things are probably OK and the pilot is flying a very long time. Everything is OK if the tracking information makes sense = continually moving with no breaks in time and with the location constantly changing. If there are breaks in the location or the location does not change, it may mean that the pilot is not in the air or has crashed. It is critical that rescue contacts know this. If things do not appear normal, proceed.
4. Attempt to contact the pilot via radio, cell phone, or satellite phone. How long should someone attempt to contact the pilot? It is hard to say but probably until contact is made one way or another. If there is someone handy/local, he can go to the last known location of the pilot using the coordinates given by the SC. If all is OK, the pilot can be rebuked for being a hazard and a nuisance for causing a false alarm because he did not check

in. Attempt to contact friends or the host that the pilot is traveling with. If it is not possible to contact the pilot, proceed.

5. If there are track messages with the same location as the check in/OK message, there has probably been an accident at launch. Initiate search and rescue (S&R) but only if the pilot does not have a rescue service (e.g. Global Rescue). If he does, contact the service immediately and let them take over the rescue. Global Rescue and firms that do similar things are NOT search organizations. If they have to search for the pilot, he will be charged accordingly. Be sure to tell the service everything you know. If the pilot has no rescue service, proceed.
6. If the track messages show a change in location and, at some point, show the same location for over 30 minutes, the pilot has crashed. Initiate S&R with the authorities in the pilot's location.
7. If the track messages are as in #3 above but there are time breaks not compatible with orderly movement and the location starts changing again, the pilot has been rescued or, perhaps, seized. Something is wrong. Initiate S&R with the local authorities. They may already be helping and will know about the rescue. It does not hurt to contact them for instructions and other help, if possible.