



Safety Focus Areas

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What we'll be covering

Mission Safety

- Member protection
- UAS and aircraft
- Ground teams and equipment
- Planning and communications
- Available resources



Mission Safety

Member Protection

- Civil Air Patrol uses many systems and policies to keep our members safe. Safety is a broad program within CAP that covers numerous different missions, such as Cadet Protection and Risk Management.
- These policies and procedures play a critical role within our Emergency Services operations and how we interact with the community.
- When CAP is activated for a mission, we often work in close collaboration with multiple other civilian and government agencies. This means that every action reflects on our professionalism as an organization.
- Aside from our reputation, though, protecting our members is important because they are our number one resource. These rules exist to protect the individual, and that is why we follow them.
- Throughout every step of the mission process, decisions must be made in the best interest of the team to create as safe of an environment as possible.



Mission Safety

UAS and Aircraft

- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and aircraft are vital assets in the Civil Air Patrol toolbox that play a key role in almost all our missions. Each UAS unit can cost between \$800-\$2,000 and each Cessna aircraft between \$200,000-\$400,000.
- These resources are extremely expensive to procure and maintain, and repairs will often be in the thousands. This is why we place our equipment in the hands of experienced personnel.
- It is the responsibility of every leader at the unit level, on incident command staff, and on the team, to ensure that members remain informed and up-to-date on all required training.
- If a technician, aircrew, or pilot has failed to remain current or complete necessary requirements, they shouldn't fly. It's as simple as that. The same goes for many non-aviation roles that require continuing training and education.



Mission Safety

Ground Teams and Equipment

- It can be said that Ground Teams are the backbone of Search and Rescue missions. The Ground Team or Urban Direction Finding team is the group scanning miles of terrain, retrieving distress beacons, marking search areas, and doing it all on foot.
- Because of how important Ground Teams are to the mission, they need to be provided with the right tools and equipment to get the job done. Units are often responsible for maintaining their own Ground Team and UDF equipment, which is why it's good to ensure that equipment is kept in tip-top shape for when it's needed.
- The cost of equipment used by Ground Teams can range from \$100 to over \$500. It's imperative that members know how to use and properly care for the tools they're entrusted to use.



Mission Safety

Planning and Communications

- On the Incident Staff and Communications side of the mission, there are still potential risks to be aware of. Firstly, the planning section is responsible for incorporating all of the appropriate safety measures into the mission from square one. Each role on the Incident Command Staff also shares in its own weight of responsibilities.
- The Communications section is responsible for coordinating with Ground Teams, Aircraft, and keeping track of events in detail. They exist to keep things running in a professional manner and relay information accurately.
- Other roles, like Safety and Logistics, are also key players in the function of the mission. But, looking at the whole picture, it takes every section running at its best to have a successful mission. Everyone must pull weight and work together to accomplish the mission goal.



Mission Safety

Available resources

- CAP Mission Management & Support Guide
<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/emergency-services/operations-support/mission-management-and-support-guidelines>
- CAPF 160-3 – CAP Activity Safety Pamphlet
https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP_1603_CAP_Activity_Safety_Pamphlet_2023_fdad40e6c4d04.pdf
- FEMA's Incident Command System
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-100.c&lang=en>
- AFRCC – Basic Inland Search and Rescue Course
<https://www.1af.acc.af.mil/Library/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/289619/basic-inland-search-and-rescue-course-bisc/>



Thank you!

- If you have any questions, please reach out to myself at asmith@ncr.cap.gov or Maj. Fink at bfink@ncr.cap.gov.