



Civil Air Patrol  
Search & Rescue Squadron 902  
Willow Grove NASJRB  
P.O. Box 473  
Horsham, PA 19044



TO: All Ground Team Personnel  
FROM: SM Donald Pond, Safety Officer  
RE: AIRCRAFT CRASH SCENE SAFETY  
DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

### Safety Procedure SO-06-003

It is our mission to provide ground team support in searching for downed aircraft. Our ground teams may be required to enter into a crash scene to perform medical care and extricate the downed aircrew for transport to a trauma center. Below is an outline of safety considerations for our ground teams.

The rule of thumb for the “FIRST IN” ground team is to approach the crash scene up wind and up hill.

Perform a “SIZE UP” of the OVERALL SCENE. This must be conducted prior to entry.

Consideration for the following must be taken into account for the protection of our ground teams. ALL GROUND TEAM PERSONNEL MUST BE ALERT FOR THE FOLLOWING HAZARDS:

**Fire / Explosion Danger** - Do to fuels and/or unstable cargo.

**Biohazards** – Blood borne pathogen issues of the injured and/or deceased. This can be an issue throughout the crash scene. Universal Precautions will be followed. Latex gloves (a proper substitute can be use if allergic to latex) are to be used. Donning of Tyvex coveralls, safety glasses and face mask. Remember to properly dispose of any personal protective equipment (PPE) once the operation is complete in red biohazard bags and send for special disposal handling.

**Hazardous Materials** – Do you know for certain what cargo is on board? Once a HAZMAT is determined, Do not enter the “Hot Zone”. CAP personnel are not trained for HAZMAT Operations. Stay away.

**Unruly People** – They can create an unsafe environment for rescue personnel very quickly. The flight might have taken place for clandestine reasons. If that is the case, the aircraft might have booby traps on board and/or the crew might be armed. Stay alert!

**Unstable Aircraft Positioning** – Stabilization techniques maybe required to stabilize the aircraft prior to entry to perform medical assessment, treatment and extrication of the patients on board.

Communicate your findings to the incident commander ASAP and **deny entry** of any **unauthorized people** to the scene until the proper authorities arrive to assist in the operation.