# AIRCRAFT EMERGENCY OR DISASTER

A. Purpose

To outline the procedures that will be followed in the event an aircraft accident is imminent or has occurred involving possible injury or death of passengers or crew.

B. Responsibilities

Detroit City Tower shall alert the Airport Emergency equipment when, in the opinion of any of the following, an accident, emergency or disaster exist:

1. Control Tower personnel on duty
2. The pilot of the aircraft concerned
3. The operator of the aircraft or his representative
4. A representative of the CAYIA

If Air Traffic Control Tower personnel are in doubt that a given situation constitutes a potential emergency, the emergency equipment shall be alerted.

C. Scope

These procedures establish three states of alert for aircraft emergencies at CAYIA. To summarize, they are:

**Alert I** – Potential emergency involving single/multi propeller or jet aircraft; emergency terminated upon aircraft touchdown. Off-airport emergency equipment will take precautionary standby positions as depicted on Attachment “A” and await further instructions from Detroit Fire Department.

**Alert II** – Minor emergency involving any aircraft touchdown; e.g.: smoke in the cockpit, aircraft goes off runway, etc.

**Alert III** – Major emergency involving an aircraft crash, aircraft fire and/or loss of life on or near CAYIA.

D. Definition of Aircraft Disaster

An aircraft may or may not be classified as a disaster. For the purpose of this plan an aircraft crash becomes a disaster when either:

1. The loss of life and property is so extensive that long term recovery operations are necessary to return the community back to normal; or
2. The level of response required to recover from the effects of the crash significantly exceeds the affected jurisdictions and resources.

E. Classification of Aircraft Crash as a Disaster

The Incident Commander at the crash site will determine if the crash is a disaster. Also, after a thorough assessment of the scope and magnitude of the situation, the Mayor or a municipal Chief Executive Officer, or their designee may also upgrade a crash to a disaster.

ROUTINE EMERGENCY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (S.O.P.’s) WILL BE FOLLOWED IF THE CRASH IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS A DISASTER.

F. Disaster Response Phases

There are four phases to any aircraft disaster response. During each of these phases, different activities take place. These phases and the primary activities associated with them are as follows:

**Hot Phase – Save Lives and Property**

This begins when the disaster first occurs, and last approximately one hour. It is during this phase that the on-scene command post is established and fire suppression, search and rescue, emergency medical and temporary access control activities take place. Life and property saving personnel and resources are notified and mobilized. Key Officials are notified of the situation, this plan is activated, and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Family Center are activated.

**Warm Phase – Protect the Site**

This phase lasts several hours. It begins when the life and property saving activities are essentially complete. It is during this phase that the site is secured, primary and secondary access control are implemented, the response effort is brought under control, the disaster site is assessed, and long term strategic recovery plans tailored to the situation are developed and implementation is initiated. During this phase the Family Center is fully established, the Public Information Center being operation, and the facility to be used as the Identification Center is selected and outfitting activities begin. Investigative personnel and resources are notified and mobilized.

**Cool Phase – Investigation**

This phase may last many days. It beings as soon as strategic recovery plans have been approved. The disaster site is processed, body and property recovery is initiated, the Identification Center is fully established, and related investigative operations are conducted. Site recovery personnel and resources are notified and mobilized.

**Cold Phase – Identification and Site Recovery**

This phase lasts a minimum of a week. During this phase positive identification of the deceased is accomplished, next of kin notifications are made, Identification Center operations are phased down and then terminated, and the on-scene Command Post and Emergency Operations Center are deactivated. The State of Emergency is rescinded, and all operations return to normal.