

B. OVERDUE AIRCRAFT

An aircraft normally will be initially considered “overdue” when it has not completed a required check-in by radio or telephone within the time frame specified in the flight following request. This time frame may be an elapsed period of time such as “every 15 minutes” for reconnaissance flights or may be Estimated Time of Arrival at a destination or reporting point. Dispatchers or persons responsible for Flight Following are responsible for initiating actions and documenting all actions, contacts, conversations, and times, as specified by this guide. Remember, it is also important to notify all parties of any changes in status including locating the aircraft.

If overdue aircraft is located at its destination or with only communications problems preventing contact, cancel with all parties previously notified. If the overdue aircraft is not located before anticipated fuel exhaustion or (better yet) at another time designated by the agency, declare the aircraft missing and proceed with the search and rescue (SAR) phase (see Missing Aircraft checklist).

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ACTION INITIATED and TIME	DATE/TIME DONE:	CONTACT ACTIONS	COMMERCIAL	24-HOUR NUMBER
Immediately at overdue time		Attempt radio contact via (direct or relay) or through telephone calls.		
15 minutes or as designated by agency		Continue attempts within agency (originating/destination airport, agency/location, etc.).		
30 minutes or as designated by agency		Contact vendor base for possible contact.		
		Call FAA Flight Service Station, giving flight information and request specific action desired: communication check, ramp checks, ELT reports, from SARSAT and/or known aircraft in area. <u>SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT SAR PROCEDURES ARE NOT REQUESTED AT THIS TIME.</u>		DENVER FSS (CO) (720) 873-2740 24 hr. ARTCC (303) 651-4248
1 hour or when known fuel duration is exceeded.		Notify appropriate local Agency Aviation Manager to determine if missing aircraft procedures should be activated:		

IF AIRCRAFT IS LOCATED AND HAS NOT EXPERIENCED A MISHAP, **CANCEL ANY SEARCH/RESCUE PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN INITIATED**, AND COMPLETE SAFECOM. **IF AIRCRAFT IS DETERMINED TO BE MISSING, GO TO MISSING AIRCRAFT SECTION.**