



VIRGINIA FLIGHT SCHOOL SAFETY ARTICLE – NO 12/08

ACTIONS AT THE SCENE OF AN AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

The article hereunder pertains specifically to general aviation aircraft. It offers some useful tips and 1ST Aid hints.

We can use the pyramid of seven “GETS” as a guideline or checklist for our survival after an accident



1. **Get Out.** Get all occupants out of the aircraft as soon as possible – a fire could be imminent. Grab the first aid kit and signalling strips.
2. **Get Safe.** Gather all occupants at least 50 meters away from the aircraft. Stay together.
3. **Get Treatment.** Know the contents of the first aid kit and follow the instructions in the first aid booklet in the kit to treat injuries.
4. **Get Shelter.** After injuries have been assessed and treated protect yourself from the elements.
5. **Get Water.** Limit movement and protect from to elements to prevent dehydration. Take in Fluids.

6. **Get Seen.** Know how to use signalling devices carried in the plane. Place signal strips in clearly visible open ground.
7. **Get Home.** No one survives an accident uninjured. Even if you have no physical injuries there will be emotional trauma. Be prepared for this and seek help in the time after the accident. Organisations have a direct responsibility in this regard.

ASSESSING AND TREATING INJURIES

TRIAGE

Triage is a French word meaning “screening” and is associated with the prioritising of medical care in the field. We should all know the basics of Triage so that whoever is most able can prioritise the medical care required by victims at an accident scene.

CATEGORISING CARE REQUIRED

There are three basic categories of care :

- Immediate – Life Threatening
- Later – Broken bones and lacerations
- Last – All other things

HOW DO YOU CATEGORISE?

The easiest tool to use for the layman is LOC – Level Of Consciousness:

1. Alert and orientated to time and place
2. Only responds to voice
3. Only responds to pain
4. No response

A person with no response requires attention first and the person who is alert to time and place will be “last” in line for attention. Bear in mind that this is only a guideline for the layman.

ASSESSING INJURIES

Begin with the basics :

1. A = Airway – closed or compromised
B = Breathing – regular or laboured
C = Circulation – heartbeat
2. Presume spinal injuries – keep the person as still as possible.

Check that the seal is not broken.



Check expiry date.



1ST AID KIT CONTENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Medical Adhesive Tape | 11. Cotton Swabs |
| 2. CPR Mouthpiece | 12. Burn Dressing/Gel |
| 3. Paracetamol Tabs | 13. Emergency Blanket |
| 4. Nausea Tabs | 14. Swabs |
| 5. Disposable Gloves | 15. Antiseptic Lotion |
| 6. Safety Pins | 16. Bandages |
| 7. Tweezers | 17. Plaster Strips |
| 8. Eye Pad | 18. Cleansing Wipes |
| 9. Ear Buds | 19. Mercurochrome |
| 10. Scissors | 20. 1 ST Aid Book |

GET SEEN – SIGNALLING STRIP CODE

<i>GROUND/AIR VISUAL SIGNAL CODE</i>			
<i>Nr</i>	<i>Message</i>	<i>Code Symbol</i>	<i>Instructions for Use</i>
1	Require Assistance	V	a) Make signals as large as possible b) Lay out signals exactly as shown c) Provide as much colour contrast between signals and background d) Make every effort to attract attention by other means such as radio, smoke, reflected light, etc
2	Require Medical Assistance	X	
3	No or Negative	N	
4	Yes or Affirmative	Y	
5	Proceeding in this Direction	➔ , etc	