

**Cobb County Police Department**

**Policy 4.10**

**AIRCRAFT CRASHES**

<b>Effective Date:</b> May 1, 2016
<b>Rescinds:</b> Policy 4.04 "Aircraft Crashes" (January 12, 2013)
<b>Related Orders:</b> None
<b>Issued By:</b> Chief J.R. Houser <span style="float: right;"><b>Page 1 of 2</b></span>
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.

The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidelines for Cobb County Police Officers who may be first on the scene of an aircraft crash.

**I. NATURE OF RESPONSE**

- A.** Primary responsibility for investigation of aircraft crashes lies with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In the case of crashes involving military aircraft, the appropriate military authority will investigate.
- B.** Officers shall respond to all complaints of aircraft crashes in unincorporated Cobb County. The functions of the officer at the scene shall include:
  - 1. Administering emergency first aid to injured persons.
  - 2. Limiting or preventing further injury, loss of life, and property damage.
  - 3. Securing the crash scene for investigation by the proper authority.

**II. PROCEDURE**

- A.** Any officer locating an aircraft crash site shall immediately notify his supervisor and the Communications Center.
- B.** Communications Center personnel shall immediately notify the Federal Aviation Administration.
- C.** Officers on the scene shall administer first aid to injured persons and take appropriate steps to secure the crash site. The site shall be treated in the same manner as a crime scene and shall be secured accordingly.

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- D.** Unless an ongoing emergency exists at the site, no officer shall remove a dead body or move wreckage at the crash site without first having the site photographed or otherwise documented for further investigation.
  
- E.** Officers at the scene should be alert for hazardous materials and should call for a bomb technician or Hazardous Materials team if such materials are present or believed to be present.
  
- F.** Only essential emergency and investigative personnel shall be allowed inside the secured area.