



Today's discussion is from the Aviation Category.

AVIATION COMMUNICATIONS

Discuss the following information in terms of effective communication with aircraft. Involve the pilot in this discussion.

- Establish an air-to-ground frequency on the fire, and make sure everyone knows what it is.
Avoid switching frequencies in the middle of an operational period.
- Consider using national air-to-ground frequencies.
- Discuss Guard frequencies:
 - How they work.
 - When to use them.
 - What frequencies are established for aircraft in your area?

- Aviation communications should be clear, concise, short, and to the point.
- Use standard terminology that can be understood by all people you are talking to. Do not use local slang.
- Know what you want to say before you key the microphone. Don't think and talk at same time.
- Before you key your microphone to talk, be sure to listen to ensure you don't cut into another transmission.

- Identify who you want to talk to by the call sign and identify yourself in every transmission.
- If the frequency gets congested, request another frequency. Upon receipt, ensure that all people who need to be on the new frequency transfer to that frequency.
- When giving ground descriptions, describe the location as if you are viewing the location from the direction an aircraft would be traveling. Use a common frame of reference for the sender and receiver.
- Use easily understandable directions, such as north, south, east, west, 2 o'clock, 9 o'clock, left 20 degrees, right 45 degrees, etc.
- When giving directions, always give them in relation to the pilot's perspective.

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)
[Fireline Handbook](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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