

IFALPA



SAFETY BULLETIN

One Level of Safety Worldwide

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In-Flight Intercept Procedures

This Document was produced in co-operation with AOPA Air Safety Foundation

This Safety Bulletin has been provided for **information purposes only**, and is based upon information received with the compliments of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Foundation.

The document attached contains information in relation to:

1. Intercepted aircraft signal and meaning;
2. Intercepting aircraft response and meaning.

Further information can be gained by contacting the IFALPA Regional Officer
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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
AIR LINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATIONS

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|---|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Intercepted aircraft signal | Meaning | Intercepting aircraft response | Meaning |
| Raises landing gear while flying over runway between 1,000' and 2,000', and continues to circle the airport. | This airport is inadequate. | If the intercepted aircraft is requested to go to an alternate airport, the intercepting aircraft raises its landing gear and uses the intercept procedures. | Understood, follow me. |
| (At night, the pilot of the intercepted aircraft will also flash landing lights while passing over the runway.) | | To release the intercepted aircraft, the intercepting aircraft will perform the breakaway maneuver. | Understood, you may proceed. |
| The pilot switches on and off all available lights at regular intervals. | Cannot comply. | Performs the breakaway maneuver. | Understood. |
| The pilot switches on and off all available lights at irregular intervals. | In distress. | Performs the breakaway maneuver. | Understood. |



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IN-FLIGHT INTERCEPT PROCEDURES

If you are intercepted by a U.S. Military or law enforcement aircraft, immediately:

1. Follow the instructions given by the intercepting aircraft. (See chart at right.)
2. Notify ATC, if possible.
3. Attempt to communicate with ATC on the emergency frequency **121.5 MHz**, giving the identity and position of your aircraft and the nature of the flight.
4. If equipped with a transponder, squawk 7700, unless otherwise instructed by ATC. If any instructions received by radio from any sources conflict with those given by the intercepting aircraft by visual or radio signals, request clarification while continuing to comply with the instructions given by the intercepting aircraft.

| Intercepting aircraft signal | Meaning | Intercepted aircraft response | Meaning |
|---|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Rocks wings. After acknowledgement initiates a slow level turn, normally to the left, into the desired heading. (Also, at night flash the navigational lights.) | You have been intercepted. | Rocks wings and follows. (Also, at night flash navigational lights.) | I understand and will comply. |
| Performs an abrupt breakaway maneuver consisting of a climbing 90 degree turn, or more, without crossing the intercepted aircraft's flight path. | You may proceed. | Rocks wings. | I understand and will comply. |
| Circles airport, lowers landing gear, and overflies runway in the direction of landing. (Also, at night turn the landing lights on.) | Land at this airport. | Lowers landing gear, follows the intercepting aircraft and lands if the runway is considered safe (Also, at night turn the landing lights on.) | I understand and will comply. |

