

MAKING THE FIND

Before talking about plane finds, lets review the protocol for Status 3 Finds:

For all finds, two people, the **FTL** and the **MEDIC**, should approach the scene to ascertain the status of the subject. When I find a deceased subject the area is now a **CRIME** scene. I need to alert base of the find. First I will **SECURE** the net, then I will tell base "We have a **STATUS 3**" My next responsibility is to **PROTECT** the scene so that investigations can proceed and the **CHAIN OF EVIDENCE** is preserved. I may need to help protect the scene until a **MEDICAL EXAMINER** can come and pronounce the patient dead.

With an aircraft find, there are a few more considerations because crashed aircraft are really **DANGEROUS**. Hot **WRECKAGE** can be up in the trees and fall on my head. Also dangerous is the **FUEL** which could start fires or explode. And then of course the craft could be **UNSTABLE** and slide around and crush me. So I'm going to approach the aircraft from **UPHILL** and **UPWIND** so I'm not injured and avoid fumes.

Just like with any find I need to assess the **CONDITION** of the subject or subjects and then preserve the scene. That's so the **FAA/NTSB** can come and conduct an investigation of the crash.

STATUS 3, CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, DANGEROUS, UPWIND, FAA/NTSB, MEDIC, CRIME, SECURE, CONDITION, PROTECT, FTL, WRECKAGE, FUEL, UNSTABLE, UPHILL, MEDICAL EXAMINER

Serious considerations with Status 3 finds.

When people die many, many others are affected by the loss. Each of us as rescuers finds our own way of coping with death, ranging from not caring to hurting deeply and everything in between. All of us find our own way of making peace with death. And as we as rescuers enter this process, so will the family, the community, and the other professional resources be confronting the death. Responses will range from the deepest heartfelt gratitude for our work to outrage at being unable to save a life. There are no rules here, no bullet point answers, but maybe a few suggestions are in order.

Remember that these times demand the utmost in our professionalism. If we are not emotionally prepared to deal with the situation we must gracefully remove ourselves. If we are prepared then we must honor the dead and honor the living. We need to treat the scene and subject with the utmost respect, and, where appropriate, offer condolences to friends and family. Under most circumstances, our work will bring a finality to a sad situation and by humbly and graciously accepting a community's gratitude we have provided the best possible care for subject and community.