

Emergency procedures:

During mission planning a variety of possible in-flight contingencies are considered and actions to manage the flight operation of the BUSTER ROA during these contingencies are developed. All missions have a pre-programmed "CF" (communication failure) waypoint, normally overhead the initial launch area, to which the vehicle will return in event of lost link. The BUSTER vehicle is launched with a pre-loaded mission that must include a Mission Initial (MI) and Communication Failure (CF) waypoint. The vehicle will automatically proceed to the MI waypoint after launch at an assigned altitude and then proceed to subsequent mission waypoints using INS and GPS navigation. A waypoint always includes an altitude and airspeed on the leg inbound to the waypoint. Potential loss of control of a BUSTER vehicle could result from catastrophic structural failure or failure of the communication link system. In the event of structural failure the vehicle will automatically shut down the engine and deploy the recovery parachute if attitude limits (pitch or roll) are exceeded for more than a fraction of a second. In the event of communication link failure the vehicle will climb 800 feet and continue on the preplanned route while attempting to regain communication. If communication is not regained within 120 seconds, the vehicle will turn directly to the CF waypoint where it will loiter until fuel exhaustion. Then the engine will stop and the recovery chute will automatically deploy.

In the event of an actual emergency the observer will contact ATC immediately. The observer will take direction from ATC and contact local authorities if necessary. Communication will be made through ground based phone.