

Emergency Procedures JPL Titan Aerobot Testbed Flights

December 2006

The following emergency procedures are followed during test flights of the JPL blimp:

1. If the command link is lost between the pilot and the blimp, we execute the “Lost Link/Mission” procedure (separate document).
2. If the communication link is lost between the ground crew and air traffic control, we execute the “Lost comm” procedure (separate document).
3. If pilot notices degraded control performance, he will immediately command the blimp to return to base and land. At his discretion, he will open the vent valve to discharge helium, reduce buoyancy and force the blimp to lower altitudes and a landing.
4. If the winds increase to approximately 10 miles per hour, the pilot will abort the test flight and land the blimp as soon as possible.
5. If the blimp is unable to return to base for whatever reason, the ground crew will execute and landing operation wherever possible. Ground crew will move to the estimated location of the landing, and retrieve the blimp. If possible, the blimp will be walked back to the home base in an inflated condition. Otherwise, the blimp will be deflated on site and await ground transportation.