

CRDA COA Application Procedures - Emergency

Due to the varieties of emergency conditions that may occur it is impossible to identify exactly what would be done to address every emergency. UAS developers generally prepare operational manuals that identify some potential problems that could occur with the UAS system and provides the recommended course of action to address specific emergencies. Even though it is impossible to define each emergency situation that could occur, there are some consistent values that will be applied to an UAS emergency: (1) most important is the safety of persons and safety shall be given more consideration than achieving mission objectives or saving the UA, (2) pilots are expected to use their best judgment in handling the emergency, (3) ATC shall be notified as soon as possible and updated as the emergency situation changes, and (4) the pilot and other flight crew members shall provide details on the emergency to public officials, e.g. airport manager, law enforcement, etc., when appropriate, consistent with the operational restraints placed on the UA pilot to operate the UAS under the existing emergency situation.

The UAS pilot will use whatever guidance and checklists have been developed for a specific UAS. The UAS pilot is expected to use his/her best judgment, knowledge, expertise, and skills to resolve the emergency as safely as possible.

After the conclusion of an emergency event a post flight critique and evaluation shall be conducted. In some instances this may require review and assessment by individuals outside the specific NMSU UAS team. Record of past emergency events shall be maintained and used in training syllabuses to educate flight crew personnel on how to possibly more effectively manage the same or similar emergencies.