1. Lost primary link (900 MHz): Link between UAV and Piccolo Ground Control System.

In the event that the UAV loses 900MHz communication with the ground control system (GCS), preventing manual control via that link, the backup pilot will regain control of the UAV using the 2.4GHz R/C transmitter and immediately bring the aircraft in for landing.

2. Lost secondary link (2.4 GHz).

In the event that the UAV loses both the 900MHz link and the 2.4GHz link, the autopilot will automatically assume control, reduce the throttle setting, and establish a circular, 300 foot radius flight path centered 300 feet above the GCS. If the pilots and GCS operator are unable to re-establish one of the two radio links, the autopilot will maintain the circular flight path until the fuel is expended, resulting in a controlled descent into the uninhabited area surrounding the airstrip. The endurance of the avionics power supply is substantially longer than the aircraft endurance, so the vehicle will remain in controlled flight even after the propulsion system fails due to lack of fuel.