

Lost Communications Procedures

Loss of Communication among Test Personnel

During flight operations, test personnel will maintain communications using standard two-way radios which operate on 460 MHz. These personnel will include the pilot, a ground station operator, a test conductor, and several observers, including one observer who will be the designated safety officer. While the flight operations have been planned so that the helicopter is within the line of sight of the pilot at all times, and so that the helicopter is always within 1000 ft of the pilot, the observers will be used to assist in monitoring the progress of the helicopter from different vantage points. Prior to beginning a flight, the test conductor will initiate a radio check to ensure that all personnel are in position and to confirm that all radios are functioning. If there is a loss of communications during a flight, the test conductor will decide whether the flight can continue (e.g., if one observer loses contact but other observers still have a clear view of the vehicle) or if it should be terminated. In the case of termination, the pilot will land the helicopter at the take-off and landing site.

Loss of Communications with Air Traffic Control

During flight operations, test personnel will maintain an open channel of communication with Roanoke ATC, the nearest ATC center, as required by the FAA. Cell phones will be used for these communications. If these lines of communication are interrupted (i.e., through loss of cell phone signal), flight operations will be terminated until communications are restored. Cell phone reception has been confirmed at the flight operations site, and will be checked prior to each flight.