

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR Y 077/2016

UNITED KINGDOM



UK Aeronautical Information Services
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Subject

Operational



EMERGENCIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS TEMPORARY DANGER AREAS AND RESTRICTIONS OF FLYING

- 1** Emergency Controlling Authorities (ECA) are established throughout the United Kingdom to deal with major emergencies, disasters or incidents that might occur anywhere within the boundaries of the United Kingdom Flight Information Regions. The ECA may find it necessary for the safety of life and particularly for the protection of the emergency services engaged in air or surface activities, to restrict flights by aircraft over the area concerned.
- 2** The first action normally taken will normally be the establishment of a Temporary Danger Area (TDA) around the scene of the incident. It should be noted that TDAs covering emergency incidents may be established only by the RAF(U) Swanwick Distress and Diversion Controller, on telephone number: 01489-612406 (H24). Any request received by ATS units for emergency flying restrictions to be established must be re-directed to the RAF(U) Swanwick Distress and Diversion Controller.
- 3** If the TDA fails to achieve the objective, statutory Restriction of Flying Regulations made under Article 239 of the Air Navigation Order 2016, which make it an offence for an aircraft to be flown in the designated area without the appropriate permission, will be brought into operation. Details of the TDA and any subsequent Restriction of Flying Regulations will be published as quickly as possible by NOTAM. Under certain circumstances, Restriction of Flying Regulations may be brought into operation without the prior establishment of a TDA. The ECA, which will be identified in the relevant NOTAM, is the only authority that may grant permission for an aircraft to be flown within the designated area. Subject to any overriding considerations of safety, flights by aircraft directly associated with emergency action will invariably be given priority over those seeking to overfly the area for any other reason. Whenever possible, Air Traffic Service Units in the vicinity of emergency incidents are requested to inform aircraft already airborne of the introduction of a TDA or Restricted Area (Temporary) (RA(T)). Details of RA(T)s will also be included on the NATS Aeronautical Information Service Freephone telephone number: 0500-354802. Notification of the withdrawal of airspace restrictions will be published by NOTAM at the appropriate time.
- 4** Should a pilot see a disaster or any other emergency incident, which he/she believes may not have been previously notified, he/she should report the details to any ATS unit by the quickest means possible.
- 5** To avoid any confusion between Air Traffic Controllers and Pilots, only the phrases 'Temporary Danger Area' or 'Restricted Area (Temporary)' are to be employed when describing temporary airspaces associated with the handling of emergency incidents.
- 6** Further enquiries of the Civil Aviation Authority can be made to Mr R E J Gratton, Principal Airspace Regulator, Safety and Airspace Regulation Group, telephone 020-7453 6586.

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