



CITY OF OAKDALE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

455 South Fifth Avenue • Oakdale, CA 95361 • Ph: (209) 845-3600 • Fax: (209) 848-4344

Low Flying Aircraft Complaints

Overview

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for ensuring the safety of all civil aviation within the United States. In accordance with federal regulations, the FAA investigates citizen complaints regarding low-flying aircraft that may pose a danger to persons or property.

If you witness an aircraft flying unusually low and suspect it may be violating FAA regulations, the FAA encourages you to report it—provided that the operation was *not* part of a routine takeoff, landing, or authorized emergency operation.

What to Include in Your Complaint

To assist the FAA in effectively investigating a low-flying aircraft complaint, please collect and report the following:

- **Aircraft Identification**
 - Was the aircraft civilian or military?
 - Was it a high-wing or low-wing aircraft?
 - What was the color or markings?
 - Did you capture the registration number? (U.S. aircraft numbers begin with “N” and are located on the fuselage or tail.)
- **Time and Location**
 - What was the exact date and time of the incident?
 - Where did the incident occur (street, address, or geographic reference)?
 - What direction was the aircraft flying?
- **Altitude Estimation**
 - How low was the aircraft flying?
 - Was it flying below or level with a known landmark (e.g., a building or tower)?
 - What is your basis for the altitude estimate (e.g., visual comparison, photos)?
- **Supporting Evidence**
 - Do you have photos or videos? Please include the type of lens used and any visible landmarks for scale.
 - Are there other witnesses? Please include their names and contact information.
 - Were the police contacted? Law enforcement reports may assist FAA investigations.

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ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DEPARTMENT

280 N. Third Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 845-3571
(209) 847-6834 Fax

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

120 S. Sierra Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 845-3625
(209) 845-8903 Fax

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Station No. 1:
325 East “G” St.
Station No. 2:
450 S. Willowood Dr.
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 845-3660
(209) 847-5907 Fax

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

120 S. Sierra Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 845-3591
(209) 845-3692

POLICE DEPARTMENT

245 N. Second Ave.
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 847-2231
(209) 847-3790 Fax

CITY OF OAKDALE WEBSITE

www.ci.oakdale.ca.us

E-MAIL

info@ci.oakdale.ca.us

What Happens Next?

Once a complaint is received, the local **Flight Standards District Office (FSDO)** will review the information and attempt to identify the aircraft and operator. FAA investigators may:

- Compare reported sightings with air traffic control records
- Contact local law enforcement or other observers
- Trace the registered owner if different from the operator

If requested, FAA will inform you of the outcome of their investigation. Be sure to provide your name, mailing address, and daytime phone number when filing a complaint.

Federal Regulations on Low Flying Aircraft

Per 14 CFR §91.119:

Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes:

- (a) *Anywhere.*** An altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface.
- (b) *Over congested areas.*** Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open-air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.
- (c) *Over other than congested areas.*** An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure.
- (d) *Helicopters, powered parachutes, and weight-shift-control aircraft.*** If the operation is conducted without hazard to persons or property on the surface—
 - (1) A helicopter may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, provided each person operating the helicopter complies with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the FAA; and
 - (2) A powered parachute or weight-shift-control aircraft may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section.

How to File a Complaint

Please contact the **Fresno FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO)**

Phone: (559) 454-0286

 [Fresno FSDO | Federal Aviation Administration](#)

If further information is required, please contact:

Community and Consumer Liaison Division, APA-200

Federal Aviation Administration

Washington, D.C. 20591

Phone: (202) 267-3481 (Monday–Friday, 7:30 AM–4:00 PM ET)

Thank you for helping us maintain aviation safety in our community.

For questions related to Oakdale Municipal Airport Operations, contact the Airport Manager