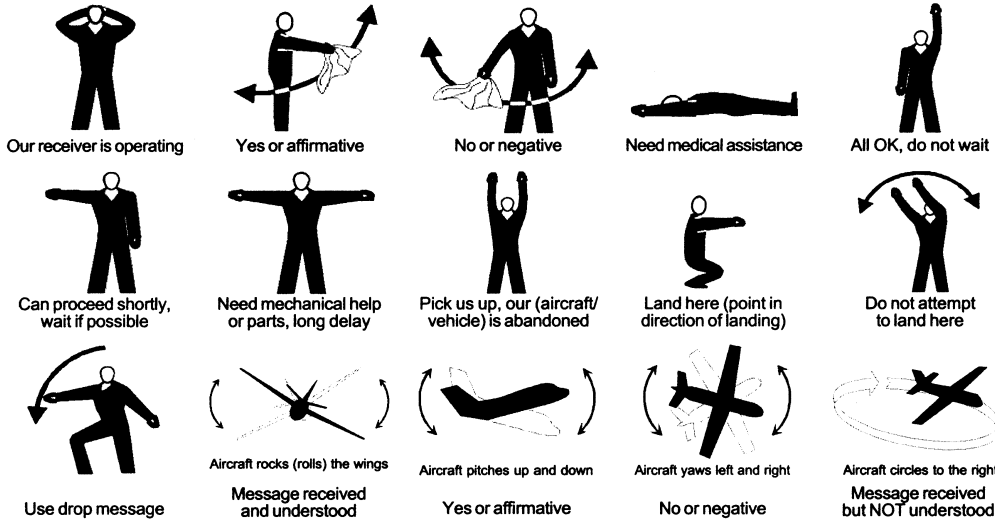
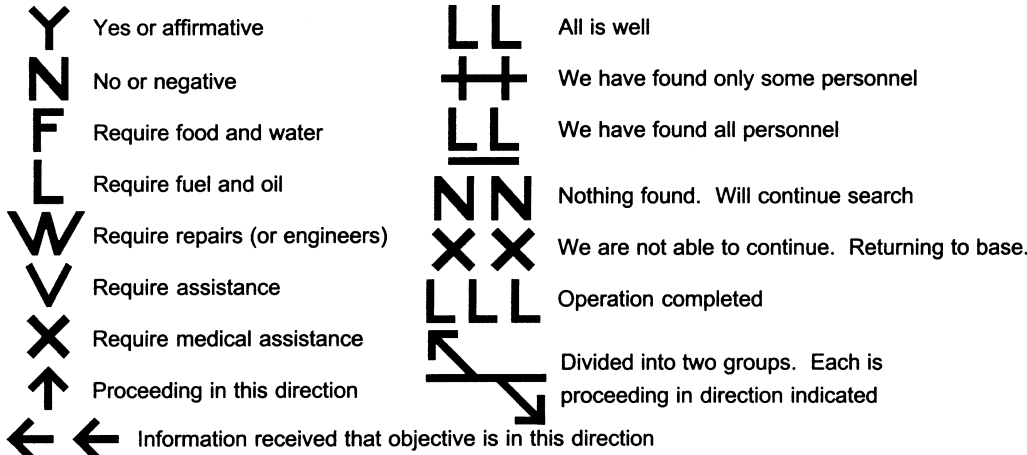


Civil Air Patrol Emergency Services *Air to Ground and Ground to Air Signalling*



If you are able to attract the attention of the pilot of a rescue plane, the body signals illustrated on this page can be used to transmit messages as they circle over your location. Stand in the open when you make the signals. Be sure the background, as seen from the air, is not confusing. Go through the motions slowly and repeat each signal until you are positive that the pilot understands you.



After air and ground crews have mutually identified each other (aircraft by making at least one full circle), the aircraft leads the ground crew in the direction of travel. Flying from the "6" to "12" o'clock position indicates "follow me." Aircraft indicate turns by flying to an intersection, banking and following the new direction directly over the appropriate road. Flying directly toward a team ("12" to "6" o'clock) will halt a team. The team should stay in place until directed otherwise by the aircraft or mission base. Once a team is at a jumping off point, the aircraft will travel directly to the objective, circle at least twice, and return to the team and lead them to the site. Repeat this step until the ground crew has reached the objective. Aircrews should remember that ground team range of vision is almost always shorter than the aircraft's range.

1. Lay out symbols by using strips of fabric or parachutes, pieces of wood, stones, or any available material.
2. Provide as much color contrast as possible between material used for symbols and background against which symbols are exposed.
3. Symbols should be at least 10 feet high or larger, if possible. Care should be taken to lay out symbols exactly as shown to avoid confusion with other symbols.
4. In addition to using symbols, every effort is to be made to attract attention by means of radio, flares, smoke, or other available means.
5. When ground is covered with snow, signals can be made by dragging, shoveling or tramping the snow. The depressed areas forming the symbols will appear to be black from the air.
6. Pilot should acknowledge message by rocking wings from side to side.