

# How to Report Low Flying Aircraft, including Hot Air Balloons

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the government agency responsible for aviation safety. It is FAA policy to investigate citizen complaints of low flying aircraft operated in violation of Federal Aviation Regulations and that might endanger persons or property.

Minimum safe altitudes are spelled out in the **FAA's Code of Federal Regulations**.

To report a safety issue caused by low flying aircraft, contact the FAA's local Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) located in Scottsdale, Arizona:

Scottsdale FSDO  
17777 N. Perimeter Drive  
Suite 101  
Scottsdale, AZ 85225-5453  
Phone: (480) 419-0111  
Fax: (480) 419-0800  
**E-mail** the Scottsdale FSDO Office

When reporting a low flying aircraft, you may be asked the following questions:

- When did the incident occur?
- Where did it occur?
- What direction was the aircraft flying?
- What was the color?
- Could you tell if the aircraft was military or civilian?
- Did the aircraft have a registration number? (the number will be preceded by the letter "N")
- How high (low) was the aircraft flying?
- On what do you base your estimate? Was it level with or below the elevation of a prominent object such as a tower or building?
- Are there any witnesses who could confirm your estimate (do you have their names, addresses, phone numbers)?
- Did you take any photographs?
- Are local police aware of the problem? While they have limited authority in aviation matters, police officers are considered "trained observers" by the courts and their written statements or reports make excellent evidence if an enforcement action goes to court.