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QUESTION

Does the PIC duty at a distress scene apply in every case?

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ANSWER

No. The duties apply if possible and unless they are unreasonable or unnecessary.

Annex 12, 5.6.2 (chapeau)

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QUESTION

Name the four PIC duties at a distress scene.

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ANSWER

Keep the craft in sight, determine its position, report to the RCC or ATS unit, and act on instructions.

Annex 12, 5.6.2(a); Annex 12, 5.6.2(b); Annex 12, 5.6.2(c)

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QUESTION

On-scene report: which time format is used for the time of observation?

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ANSWER

Hours and minutes UTC.

Annex 12, 5.6.2(c)

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QUESTION

On-scene report: how can the position of the craft be given?

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ANSWER

As coordinates, or as distance and true bearing from a landmark or radio navigation aid.

Annex 12, 5.6.2(c)

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QUESTION

Which two on-scene report items are new from 26 Nov 2026?

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ANSWER

Distress signals and beacon transmissions received or observed, and other craft that can assist.

Annex 12, Foreword Table A (Amdt 19); 5.6, 5.7; Annex 12, 5.6.2(c); Annex 12, 5.6 footnote 2; 5.6.2(c); 5.6.2.1 (both versions)

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QUESTION

A pilot hears a voice distress transmission. What is the first step, if feasible?

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ANSWER

Acknowledge the transmission.

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QUESTION

Voice distress: what does the pilot inform the RCC or ATS unit?

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ANSWER

All available information.

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QUESTION

Voice distress: does the pilot have to fly to the distress position?

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ANSWER

No. Proceeding is at the pilot's discretion while awaiting instructions.

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QUESTION

Distress beacon on 121.5 MHz: which position does the pilot record and report?

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ANSWER

The position where the signal was first received, reported as soon as possible.

Annex 12, 5.2.3(f)(1) Note; 5.7.2; SERA.14095(d)(5); Annex 12, 5.7.2 (as of 26 Nov 2026)

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QUESTION

Distress beacon on 121.5 MHz: what does the pilot do with the squelch?

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ANSWER

Do not change the squelch setting of the aircraft radio.

Annex 12, 5.7.2 (as of 26 Nov 2026); Annex 12, Note to 5.7.2

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QUESTION

Distress beacon: how long does the pilot keep listening, and then what?

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ANSWER

Until the signal stops, if feasible; then tell the RCC or ATS unit.

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QUESTION

Why is the squelch left unchanged while a beacon is heard?

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ANSWER

A fixed setting keeps the first-reception and fade points consistent, so reports can be combined.

Annex 12, Note to 5.7.2

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QUESTION

The first aircraft at a distress scene is not a SAR aircraft. What does it do?

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ANSWER

It takes charge of later arrivals until the first SAR aircraft arrives.

Annex 12, 5.6.2.1 (as of 26 Nov 2026)

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QUESTION

The first aircraft at the scene cannot talk to the RCC. What does it do?

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ANSWER

It hands over, by mutual agreement, to an aircraft that can keep communication.

Annex 12, 5.6.2.1 (as of 26 Nov 2026)

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QUESTION

Can a pilot use another signal that can be confused with a SAR signal?

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ANSWER

No. Do not use any other signal that can be confused with the SAR signals.

Annex 12, 5.8.1

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QUESTION

An aircraft sees a SAR visual signal. What does it do?

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ANSWER

It takes the action the signal requires.

Annex 12, 5.8.2

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QUESTION

How many RCCs does each search and rescue region (SRR) have, and how is it staffed?

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ANSWER

One RCC, staffed 24 hours a day by trained people.

Annex 12, 2.3.3; Annex 12, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 2.3.4; Annex 12 Ch. 1; Reg. (EU) 2017/373 Annex I (82)

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QUESTION

Do search and rescue regions overlap, and do their boundaries follow national borders?

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ANSWER

They do not overlap and leave no gaps. Boundaries follow technical and operational needs.

Annex 12, 2.2.1 and Note 2; 2.2.1.1

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QUESTION

How long does a State provide SAR services each day?

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ANSWER

On a 24-hour basis.

Annex 12, 2.1.1

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QUESTION

Does SAR help an aircraft in distress whatever its nationality?

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ANSWER

Yes. States help whatever the nationality or status of the aircraft or survivors.

Annex 12, 2.1.2

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QUESTION

A light aeroplane flies past an accident. Is it a SAR aircraft?

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ANSWER

No. It can help as a SAR facility, but it is not a SAR aircraft.

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QUESTION

Is the alerting service the SAR service itself?

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ANSWER

No. It is an ATS function that notifies organisations and links the aircraft to the RCC.

SERA Art. 2(37); Reg. (EU) 2017/373 Annex I (134)

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QUESTION

ELT frequencies: 121.5 MHz and which other band, from 26 Nov 2026?

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ANSWER

406.0 to 406.1 MHz.

Annex 12, 5.2.3(f)(1) Note; Annex 12, 2.6.4 and Notes 1–2; 5.2.3(f)(1) Notes; 2.4.1(j); 3.2.5; SERA.14095(d)(5)

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QUESTION

How do 406 MHz beacon signals reach the RCC?

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ANSWER

Through the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system.

Annex 12, 2.6.4 and Notes 1–2; 5.2.3(f)(1) Notes; 2.4.1(j); 3.2.5; SERA.14095(d)(5)

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