



Emergency Signals

If you are in an survival situation one of the most important things is to get help as soon as possible. This card outlines different ways of communicating with aircraft.

Ground Symbols

You can lay out these symbols using strips of fabric, pieces of wood, stone, or any other available material. Try to make as big a colour contrast as possible between your symbol(s) and the surrounding terrain. Each symbol should be at least 8 feet in height or longer with its top and bottom facing the directions of south and north, respectively.

V	Require Assistance
X	Require Medical Assistance or Unable to Proceed
Y	Yes or Affirmative
N	No or Negative
↑	Proceed in this Direction
F	Require Food & Water





Body Signals

When an aircraft is close enough for the pilot or people in the aircraft to see you clearly, use body movements or positions to convey a message.



Pick us up



Need Mechanical Help



Land here



Yes



No



All is well



Can proceed shortly



Have radio



Do NOT attempt to land here



Need Medical assistance



Use drop message





Aircraft Acknowledgements

Message Understood: Aircraft will rock from side to side or give green flashes with a signal lamp.

Message Not Understood: Aircraft will make a complete right-hand circuit or give red flashes with a signal lamp.

Mountain Rescue

These are internationally recognised by all mountain rescue services.

Message	Flare Signal	Sound Signal	Light Signal
SOS	Red	3 short blasts, 3 long, 3 short Repeat after 1 minute interval	3 short flashes, 3 long, 3 short Repeat after 1 minute interval
Help Needed	Red	6 blasts in quick succession Repeat after 1 minute interval	6 flashes in quick succession Repeat after 1 minute interval
Message Understood	White	3 blasts in quick succession Repeat after 1 minute interval	3 flashes in quick succession Repeat after 1 minute interval
Return to Base	Green	Prolonged succession of blasts	Prolonged succession of flashes

