[Accident Classification](https://skybrary.aero/articles/accident-classification)

[International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)](https://skybrary.aero/articles/international-civil-aviation-organisation-icao) defines an accident as an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all such persons have disembarked in which:

A person is fatally or seriously injured

The aircraft sustains damage or structural failure

The aircraft is missing or is completely inaccessible

Note: The following are not considered accidents: experimental test flights, sabotage, hijacking, terrorism, or direct military action

There are several ways to classify an accident. These include classification by the level of **damage** incurred, by the extent of **injuries** caused, or by the **cost** of the damage to the aircraft.

**Damage**

* ***Destroyed*** : The aircraft is not repairable, or, if repairable, the cost of repairs exceeds 50% of the cost of the aircraft when it was new
* ***Substantial*** : Damage or failure that adversely affects the structural strength, performance, or flight characteristics of the aircraft, and which would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component. Not considered in substantial damage are; engine failure or damage limited to an engine only, bent or dented skin, damage to landing gear (to include wheels and tires), flaps, or wingtips.
* ***Minor*** : Damage that neither destroys the aircraft nor causes substantial damage.

**Injury**

* ***Fatal*** : An injury that results in death in the accident itself, or up to 30 days after the accident
* ***Serious***: An injury that requires more than 2 days of hospitalization up to 7 days after the accident. Fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of the toes, fingers, or nose). Serious also includes injury to an internal organ, any muscle or tendon damage, any second or third degree burn, or any burn covering more than 5 percent of the body.
* ***Minor*** : An injury that requires less than 2 days of hospitalization up to 7 days after the accident.