

## THE REGULATION

Please note there are instances when an aircraft may be operated in flight below these regulations with proper FAA approval. In addition, there are designated low-level military training routes where military aircraft may operate from the surface up to a specified altitude in visual and instrument meteorological conditions.

## THE RULE

**Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 91.119, Minimum safe altitudes, prohibits low flying except under the following conditions:**

"Sec. 91.119 Minimum safe altitudes: General. Except when necessary for takeoff or landing, no person may operate an aircraft below the following altitudes: (a) Anywhere. An altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface. (b) Over congested areas. Over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft. (c) Over other than congested areas. An altitude of 500 feet above the surface, except over open water or sparsely populated areas. In those cases, the aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure. (d) Helicopters. Helicopters may be operated at less than the minimums prescribed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section if the operation is conducted without hazard to persons or property on the surface. In addition, each person operating a helicopter shall comply with any routes or altitudes specifically prescribed for helicopters by the Administrator."

## DO YOUR PART: REPORT LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT

Your help is needed in preventing unauthorized low-flying aircraft. Do your part, report such flying to the FAA.

For more information, you can write to the Federal Aviation Administration, General Aviation and Commercial Division, Operations Branch, AFS-820, 800 Independence Ave., SW, Washington DC 20591. The telephone number is 202-267-8212.

Cover aircraft photo by Thomas C. Shapiro

U.S. Department of  
Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

# Help FAA

# Identify Unauthorized

# LOW-FLYING AIRCRAFT



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration