

# Who Ya Gonna Call?

Many pilots and non-pilots believe the FAA must be notified any time an aircraft gets bent. Not true.

As is covered in preparing for the FAA written exams, NTSB Part 830 regulates the reporting of injuries or damage to an aircraft. There's something about "substantial damage" and a distinction between an "accident" and an "incident," but that's about all you can remember.

Do you need to report what just happened? The table below summarizes the major details. The first thing to remember is that there is no requirement whatsoever to contact the FAA after an aviation accident or incident.

The second thing to remember is that the NTSB's regulations clearly state when it wants to hear about bent aircraft.

Term	NTSB Definition
Accident	Any event involving death, serious injury or substantial damage
Substantial Damage	Normally requires major repair or replacement of a component. Does not include a single engine failure, ground damage to propeller blades, landing gear, flaps or wing tips.
Incident (requiring NTSB notification)	Flight control system malfunction or failure; failure of a turbine engine's structural components excluding compressor and turbine blades and vanes; an In-flight fire; mid-air collision; damage to property, other than the aircraft, estimated to exceed \$25,000; various system failures involving large multi-engine aircraft.
Serious Injury	Any injury requiring hospitalization for more than 48 hours beginning within seven days, resulting in a fracture of any bone (except simple fracture of fingers, toes, or nose), causing severe hemorrhaging, nerve, muscle, or tendon damage, involving an internal organ, or involving second- or third-degree burns.