

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**Figure 5. Contingency Release Number 4-A**CONTINGENCY RELEASE NUMBER 4-A**

“To Notify State and Local Officials  
When the Public Is Possibly in Danger”  
(Neither confirms nor denies)

(Format of sample release to be used if public safety considerations require notifying State and local officials that hazardous cargo has been involved in an accident, the possibility exists for contamination due to fire or explosion, and details are unknown.)

**MINIMUM ANNOUNCEMENT**

A U.S. (type) aircraft (other type of transportation) carrying HAZMAT crashed (or other circumstances) about (location) at (time).

Visitors are warned to stay out of the area of the accident in the interest of public safety. Fire, rescue, and other emergency services personnel should approach the area with caution from upwind and be equipped with protective clothing and breathing apparatus. Water should not be directly used on the aircraft unless needed to save property or lives. Any local official at the scene of the accident who may provide details on the situation should make a telephone call to this number (local phone). Current information from the accident scene helps evaluate the accident and provide additional public safety guidance. If contact with the accident scene is established, determine the following: condition of aircraft (burning, evidence of explosion, extent of damage, etc.); condition of accident site (fire, blast, or damage); evidence of obvious cargo (shapes or containers). Determine the need for a public announcement of nuclear weapons involvement based on the responses to the above.

**EXPANDED ANNOUNCEMENT**

If there is no immediate threat to life, and the fire may not be extinguished immediately (five minutes), the fire should be contained and allowed to burn out. Water as a firefighting agent should be used with caution due to possible adverse reaction with materials involved in the fire.

Law enforcement officials should prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the site and picking up fragments of the plane (vehicle) or its cargo. If any fragments have been picked up already, avoid further contact or handling. Notify (authorities) for recovery and proper disposition.

Military personnel have been deployed (will be deployed) and will arrive (are scheduled to arrive) soon at the site.