

9/25/2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2025-239/6-25

2277628

To: FAA (ATM ZDV ARTCC, AJW-19)

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA),
A4A, AAEE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSG, EAA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA,
NAFI, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: ZDV Radio Outages

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



ACN 2277628**DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence	202508
Local Time Of Day	1801 to 2400

PLACE

Locale	ZDV.ARTCC
State	CO
Altitude - MSL	36000

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Center	ZDV
Make Model Name	Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part	121

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

ATC / Advisory - Center	ZDV
Make Model Name	Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part	121

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Enroute
ASRS Report Number	2277628

EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Conflict - Airborne Conflict
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published
	Material / Policy
Anomaly	Ground Event / Encounter - Ground Equipment Issue
Detector - Person	Air Traffic Control
Result - Air Traffic Control	Issued New Clearance
Result - Air Traffic Control	Separated Traffic

NARRATIVE 1

Our radios are causing safety issues. This has been a known problem for years. The failure of our equipment caused this loss of separation and deep personal distress.

Aircraft Y and Aircraft X were in conflict at FL360. Approximately 5 minutes before the loss of separation would occur, I issued Aircraft Y a descent clearance to FL340. There was no response and I issued the clearance three more times before coordinating backwards to earlier sectors to locate the aircraft. They did not have the aircraft on their frequencies. I did not have time to continue searching for Aircraft Y, so I issued a descent clearance to Aircraft X to FL350. There was no response. I issued the clearance again and still no response. My radios were working fine before the initial descent clearance to Aircraft Y, so I determined it was a headset issue and called over an On-the-Job Training Instructor (OJTI) in the area to plug into the sector and issue the clearance immediately. He transmitted several times with no response. We then determined that the radio must be the issue and I switched to Backup Emergency Communications (BUECs). He issued the clearance again and Aircraft X heard the clearance and descended. Separation was lost.

We cannot provide safety services when our equipment doesn't work.

Recommendation: Fix our radios. It has been a known issue for many years at ZDV. There is no excuse.

SYNOPSIS

ZDV Center Controller reported radio failure led to an inability to communicate and resulted in a loss of separation.