

2/18/2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2026-54/6-7

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

2319036

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA South), A4A, AAAE, 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: ZME Communication Radio Reliability Concerns

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 2319036

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202512
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale	ZME.ARTCC
State	TN
Altitude - MSL	33000

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

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

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Enroute
ASRS Report Number	2319036

EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Person	Air Traffic Control
Result - General	Maintenance Action

NARRATIVE 1

The aircraft had checked on and we discussed ride reports and the expected descent. When Aircraft X was 15 miles northeast of UBS where the 134.77 transmitter is located I called for them several times but no response. I switched to standby and still nothing. I could hear the aircraft calling and requesting lower but was not responding to my calls. I broadcasted on 121.5 and the aircraft eventually appeared on 120.8 low altitude frequency.

A similar situation occurred with Aircraft Y also within 50 miles of the transmitter after previously being able to communicate with them. I switched to the Backup Emergency Communications (BUEC) and did not have any further problems. Also, this radio has a "beep beep" on the main and standbys when the pilots broadcast. Technical Operations reported "no anomalies" that they could see.

Recommendation: Please for the love of everything holy fix our radios. This is not even remotely safe.

SYNOPSIS

ZME ARTCC Controller reported there are problems with the radio frequency and they could not communicate with aircraft in the airspace until the switch to the BUEC system.