

# SAR Information Leaflet



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**Close your flightplan!**  
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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Confederation

Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt BAZL  
Office fédéral de l'aviation civile OFAC  
Ufficio federale dell'aviazione civile UFAC  
Federal Office of Civil Aviation FOCA

**“The flight time was 22 minutes longer than declared in the flight plan...”**

**“The pilot closed the flight plan too late...”**

**“The pilot didn't close the flight plan at all...”**

The Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) in Zurich still receives **INCERFA** messages almost on a daily basis. More than 450 **false alarms** are registered annually and every time they involve **intensive** and **time-consuming** investigations. These time-consuming and cost-intensive investigations and the **commitment** of **resources** in the Zurich RCC are unnecessary and avoidable.

Please help to **avoid** these unnecessary **false alarms** and consider the following points:

- It is **your responsibility as a pilot** to **close** your flight plan.  
> On controlled aerodromes with active air traffic control (Skyguide), as well on **Samedan aerodrome**, air traffic control will do that for you.
- **Cancel** your flight plan if your flight does not take place (**CNL**).
- Update your flight plan if there are any **delays (DLA)**.
- **Activate** your flight plan with the ARO or FIC with a departure message (**DEP**).
- **Notify changes** such as, for example, the **EET** or a new route selection (**CHG**).  
> This can also be done at any time during the flight with the FIC.
- Indicate a **realistic flight** time (field 16/EET) in the flight plan; **30 minutes** after the calculated **arrival time** an **alert** will be triggered **automatically** at the Zurich RCC.
- To **close flight plans** in **Switzerland** use the free phone number **0800 437 837** = 0800 IFR VFR, or even better our **free “SAR Alerts” app**.

The free app is available for iOS in the Apple App Store and at the Google Play store under **“SAR Alerts”**. Download the app to your smartphone today to prevent false alarms.

The app can remind you of open flight plans and helps - simply and quickly - the AIS/AIM to call Skyguide to close flight plans on uncontrolled aerodromes in Switzerland quickly.



Kontakt:  
ELT@BAZL.admin.ch