

What are the possible dangers of encountering an unknown object in flight?

Unknown objects in the sky are quite a strange, unstudied phenomena in aviation. And, I think, they are quite dangerous for flight safety. The situation happening outside the cockpit may distract the flight crew and they may lose concentration on the flight. Also encountering such objects can lead to loss of separation and a near miss. If the flight crew needs to do hard maneuvers to avoid collision with the object the aircraft can receive serious damage of different parts and systems, pilots may get incapacitated due to injuries and lose control of the aircraft. Besides it can cause medical problems to passengers, the flight may be diverted or even forced to land.

- **How do you understand the term “UFO”?**

A UFO is an unfamiliar/unidentified/unknown object flying in the sky which doesn't look (is not something) like any man made vehicle. They suppose (it's supposed) UFOs have other aerodynamic characteristics and performance than common aircraft have.

- **What might these objects look like?**

These objects may look like saucers, plates, flat disks, stretched cigarettes or other items having very bright/brilliant lights of different colours. They constantly may change.

- **What is the possible origin of these phenomena?**

They might/may be real, common and normal objects such as rockets, comets, bright meteors, stars and planets; weather or research balloons, birds, unusual clouds, ball lightning, searchlights or other ground lights. Also it may be drone or a new military design. But, I think, it's impossible to determine the true/exact nature of them.

- **How often do pilots report such cases?**

Fortunately, not very often. Only from time to time controllers receive such reports. But they are reported and repeated over many years and different objects are sighted across the world so we should take them into consideration/ pay attention to them (We shouldn't ignore them).

- **What information do these reports usually contain?**

The reports include detailed description of the objects, for example size (large or small), shape (circular or oval), colour (dark or on the contrary very bright), maneuvers of the objects: moving very fast up or down , and from one side to another, closing or diverging, distance and so on. Pilots also report number of sighted objects.

- **Why should pilots inform an ATC service of UFO sighting?**

An ATCO should know/have information of any flying object in his sector, he should identify and control all the flights and provide safety.

- **What are typical controller's actions in such situation?**

A controller should act in accordance with Euro-control principle to assist:

A 'Acknowledge' - S 'Separate' - S 'Silence' - I 'Inform' - S 'Support' - T 'Time'

The controller should acknowledge object/radar contact/observation, provide necessary separation between the object and other aircraft in the vicinity, inform the supervisor and all concerned, try to find the information from other sources and pass this current information to all the pilots in this area. Also the controller should provide pilots with all the requested/required assistance.

- **In your opinion, why should these incidents be investigated?**

Investigations are necessary to explain the nature/origin of the UFOs and to try to find the ways to solve this problem because it may be a potential threat to aviation and national safety and security.

- **Have you ever had or heard of such a case in your professional life? What happened?**

As I work in a lower airspace I have never had such events in my experience. But my colleague from neighboring sector told me that a pilot reported sighting two objects flying above, fortunately they didn't obstruct (didn't interfere with) the flight and the crew could proceed safely to destination.

