



Shuttle Coverage Format

Launch

Because of last minute launch time changes, it is not possible to always provide an accurate launch coverage air time far in advance. Therefore the exact air time will be announced in the closed circuit talk-up on the satellite channel.

The satellite channel for the launch coverage will be announced in advance and provided to you via email.

Please monitor the channel in "cue" beginning approximately 5 minutes before the NASA-announced launch time for closed circuit announcements from the FNN anchor about launch coverage times and plans.

The anchor will provide the exact air time, time checks, and a countdown to coverage during the closed circuit talk-up. **Typically we go on the air approximately 3 minutes prior to launch and stay on the air through the separation of the solid rocket boosters, although the exact start time may change depending upon circumstances.** We begin at the top of the minute in real time - not according to the NASA countdown clock.

If NASA orders a countdown hold after coverage has begun, it will be a judgment call by the anchor whether to stay on the air or terminate coverage. This decision will be based on how long the hold is expected to last. If coverage is terminated, please continue to monitor the satellite channel in cue for more information on upcoming coverage scheduling.

In the event of a post-launch problem that occurs before we leave the air, we may opt to stay on the air longer than usual until the scope of the problem is known.

Coverage begins dry (no sounder) with "This is a special report from FNN News...", and ends with "This has been a special report from FNN News. The launch of _____. I'm _____."

Landing

Procedures are the same for the landing as they are for launch except that we generally take air approximately 2 minutes prior to touchdown and stay on through wheel stop confirmation. Again please monitor the satellite channel 5 minutes prior to NASA's announced landing time for exact information. As is the case with launch coverage, landing coverage plans are subject to change if NASA experiences technical problems.