

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
AIR SAFETY DIRECTORATE
AV. 15013/5/2004 –AS

Air Safety Circular No.02 of 2006

Subject: Weather related Helicopter accidents.

Analysis of recent accident investigation revealed that flight which was being operated under VFR continued into the adverse weather with disastrous consequences, colliding with hill and killing all on board. This accident was preventable and should not have occurred. Unfortunately history of these accidents is repeating too often to be comfortable.

The operators/pilots are regularly being apprised of such mishaps and various circulars/instructions were issued from time to time to avoid reoccurrence of same.

It is once again to reiterate that:

- Operator should advise concerned pilots to assess the weather condition before take off and invariably must obtain route weather forecast and study the same including satellite pictures, wherever available, before undertaking any flight, more so if flight is in hilly area or to the area prone to known adverse weather conditions.
- Weather in the hilly terrain can change very fast; can vary significantly from forecast and may be worse than expected. Pilot should thus be prepared and should not hesitate to divert well in time. Pressure to complete the mission should not take precedence over safety.
- Even if pilot has instrument rating but flight is in accordance with VFR, keep your options open, particularly in being able to remain VFR at all times.
- Operators are also advised to ensure that crew deputed to fly in hilly terrain, especially in monsoon weather, have necessary experience and training as per the laid down requirements. As far as possible only experienced crewmembers be deputed for such flying.

In the interest of safety and even at the cost of repetition, it is once again stressed that operators/pilots should assess weather before take off, avoid entering into severe weather conditions and divert before all means of return are sealed.

3rd January 2006

Sd/-
(A.K. Chopra)
Deputy Director General
for Director General of Civil Aviation

Distribution: All helicopter Operators.
Internal Distribution: As per list