

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
AIR SAFETY DIRECTORATE
AV. 15011/2/2008

Air Safety Circular No. 3 of 2008

Subject: Accidents/Incidents due to wire hit.

Accidents/incidents to Helicopter/aircraft due collision with wires/obstructions have increased in recent past, however these incidents/accidents are avoidable. With increased vigilance these wire hits can be prevented/avoided.

In hilly region, electrical wires and cable trolley wires normally run cross the hills. The pilots are advised to be careful while flying in hilly terrain as these wires are not easily visible due to sun glare. Ground/air recce be done to locate and get marked these wires as far as possible.

In one of the incidents, during take off helicopter hit dectrical wire very close to helipad. It needs no emphasis that pilot must check obstacle around helipad before operating flight from temporary/permanent helipad. These obstacles around the helipad should be got marked with the flags or balloons so as to make them visible.

As per Civil Aviation Requirement Section-4 Series B Part II "Minimum Safety Requirements for temporary Helicopter Landing Areas" Para 3.10 "Approach and departure shall be performed within sectors which as far as possible shall be in direct continuation of the take-off and landing directions, respectively. The sectors shall be without obstacles in the entire width and in a vertical distance of at least 35 ft. from the approach and departure surface."

Time and again hazards associated with low flying including wire hits have been reiterated by issuing various circulars/instructions. Though frequency of such incidents have been reduced, but it still remains a safety hazard and further action is required to prevent such incidents/accidents. By this Circular all pilots are once again advised not to indulge in any form of unauthorized low flying.

All operators are advised to learn lessons from these preventable incidents/accidents and to circulate these to the pilots with advise to take necessary precautions. Operators are also advised to establish adequate monitoring system.

(Bir Singh Rai)
Director Air Safety
for Director General of Civil Aviation

Dated: 29th July, 2008

To: All Aircraft/Helicopter Operators
Internal distribution as per list.