



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
AIR SAFETY DIRECTORATE

F. No. AV.15011/02/2013-AS

Dated 13th December, 2013

AIR SAFETY CIRCULAR 09/2013

Subject: Precautionary landings of helicopters due bad weather.

In the recent past there have been a few helicopter accidents in which the crew were negotiating bad weather enroute and failed to take timely action either to divert or to land immediately at suitable nearest place to avoid bad weather conditions. The pilots had also filed VFR flight plan but continued the flight under IMC conditions. The changed flight plan was not reported to the ATC control and the aircraft entered into IMC conditions without proper crew qualification. Some of these accidents have taken place when the pilots were under pressure to complete the mission despite bad weather. This has resulted in fatality of persons on board the helicopter and destruction of machines.

We are aware that weather in the hilly areas changes quickly and weather information is seldom available from the Met offices for the hilly areas especially in valleys. In the afternoon, the air becomes turbulent and pilots are required to be familiar with sudden down draft or updraft due to turbulence and should maintain adequate height margins from the terrain.

Keeping the safety of the helicopter and its occupants in mind, it has been decided that no punitive action will be taken against pilots who decided to abort the mission and carryout safe forced landing due to deteriorating weather, provided such landings are informed to DGCA Air Safety Directorate as soon as they have taken place. In case the bad weather condition is encountered nearer to the vicinity of the airfield beyond the watch hours, crew should make all efforts to land inside the airfield for safe helicopter operations. In such cases also no action will be taken by DGCA and only the same are required to be reported to DGCA Air Safety Directorate.

The pilots should not hesitate to divert or to abort the mission as and when they meet with such bad weather conditions enroute. Such an action is desirable in the interest of safety of occupants on board the helicopter.

(Arun Mishra)
Director General of Civil Aviation

Distribution;

1. All Helicopter Operators.
2. Chief Secretary/ DGP/ Dy. Commissioner/ Collector/ SP of all State Govts./ UT for information and necessary action

