

**FIRST AID / FIRE / ACCIDENT PLAN**

**Aim:** To learn what you can do in the event of any injury to people or damage to property when gliding.

Despite all the rules and common sense exercised during flying operations, there remains the risk of incidents and accidents. Acknowledging this, we aim to be prepared to best deal with any such event so risk of injury to people and damage to property or equipment is minimized. To help achieve this, we need to have an understanding of some of the basics of first aid, fire fighting and dealing with accidents.

**First Aid.** Minor injuries like cuts and bruises or sprains can occur out at the field as part of just being there and not just from a flying accident. Many people have first aid kits in their vehicles and there are basic first aid kits kept in gliders and while primarily for use after a flying accident, they can be used if needed. Know where kits are located, what is in them and how to use it. If you do use one, ensure items used are replaced asap.

More serious injuries are possible in accident situations. Basic first aid principles should be applied. These are:

Airway            check it is unobstructed

Breathing        check the person is breathing

Circulation      check for a pulse

Call 111 for ambulance services and consider directions and access to the accident location.

Stop any bleeding by applying pressure and elevating the wound if possible.

Landing accidents are prone to involve back / spinal injuries. Avoid shifting an injured person unless you have to to prevent further injury or to administer CPR or first aid.

**Fire Fighting.** While fires at airfields are rare, they can happen. Clubrooms and hangars are particularly vulnerable to fire and the consequences of a fire can be catastrophic. Ignition sources are usually faulty electrical systems or vandalism. Little can be done about the latter but in both cases, removing possible accelerants like fuel and oil, full rubbish bins, containers full of rags etc can reduce the fire risk. Keep grass cut short around all club buildings. Ban smoking in hangars and around aircraft and fuelling facilities. Know the location of fire extinguishers and water supplies, hoses and buckets and how to use them to fight a fire. Know how to isolate the power to hangars etc. During field operations, fires are very rare but have occurred when smokers have accidentally set dry grass on fire, during refueling of towplanes and launch vehicles, in launch vehicles due to faulty electrical wiring and in accidents where fuel is spilt. Again, know where to get an extinguisher (usually one is located in the caravan / checkers and there is one in the towplane) and how to use it effectively to fight a fire. Know how to call for professional assistance (Dial 111) and don't hesitate to do so as all fires can grow rapidly. Consider how you can assist the fire brigade to find and reach your location.

**Accidents.** Accidents can occur either on the field or away from the field. Events can vary from a crash on landing to a glider being overdue on a cross country soaring flight and clubs should have plans for coping with these situations. These plans cover first response initiatives like calling 111 for ambulance and fire and police assistance for possible rescue coordination. If you have particular skills that can be used in the event of an accident, make these known to the club so these can be considered with the contingency plans in place.

**Emergency Alerting by Radio.** We will often have ready access to a radio so we can call for emergency services through this medium. If on a glider chat frequency, we can relay details for ground alerting by phone or we can change to an Air Traffic Control frequency and get the services alerted by them by initiating a **PAN** or **MAYDAY** call. See the module on Use of Radio for details on how to do this.

**Tip:**

If you have a medical professional in your club, ask them to arrange a basic CPR and / or First Aid course for members...they are invaluable.

**Need To Know:**

- How to call for emergency services in the event of a fire or accident using radio, phone or cellphone.
- How to direct emergency services to the site of a fire or an accident.

**Further Reading:**

- Club Emergency Response Plan - good info on what to do if an emergency occurs at your field.