

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
AIR SAFETY DIRECTORATE  
AV. 15013/1/2002 -AS**

**Air Safety Circular No.8 of 2005**

**Subject: Hill flying/Heli Sking Operating Procedures.**

The analysis of the accidents/incidents to the helicopters, engaged in Hill flying/heliskiing operations, has revealed that most of these resulted due to ignorance/non-adherence/violations of the laid down procedures. These accidents could have been avoided with proper planning and vigilance.

The investigation of an incident revealed that while landing skid got embedded in the snow, as snow was soft. This was first landing at that place. Rotor blades hit the snow & helicopter toppled. It was further brought out that the pilot never carried out reccee flying/ to determine the condition of snow before starting the operation.

Proper flying and landing techniques, recovery from the down draft, approach and missed approach procedures, selecting landing place, effect of winds and special precautions to be taken while doing mountain flying & heliskiing operations need no emphasis.

Calculations for weight, height and density altitude be done precisely. The helicopter should be kept as light as possible so as to have more reserve power. Manoeuvres like quick stops/steep turns etc. should be avoided.

Prior to landing on any helipad in Hill area / heliskiing operations for the first time proper reccee should be carried out by the Pilot in Command.

Pilot should have thorough knowledge of topography of terrain, weather, wind patterns, obstructions like cable trolley / wires etc. Flights in hilly terrain shall be carried out under VFR only, keeping visual contact with ground & maintaining safe altitude.

All the operators engaged in Hill flying / Heliskiing operations shall prepare standard operating procedures (SOP's) for their operations incorporating laid down requirements of CAR/Operations circulars. Operator shall ensure compliance of these SOP's for safe Helicopter operations.

1<sup>st</sup> August 2005

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

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