

REPORTING AN ACCIDENT – BGA GUIDANCE

A summary of what accidents must be reported to whom, how, and when. This guidance is not intended to replace UK Statutory or BGA Laws and Rules requirements.

AAIB (Air Accidents Investigation Branch)

The following accidents must be immediately reported by telephone to the AAIB (01252 512299) and AAIB permission must be obtained before the aircraft is moved, except for the purposes of rescue:

- All accidents in the UK involving BGA registered gliders, motor gliders, and tugs, resulting in fatal or serious injury and/or substantial aircraft damage, where the accident is associated with the operation of an aircraft from embarkation with the intention of flight, to disembarkation.

This definition of an accident means that accidents resulting from, for example, falling winch cables, runaway tractors, and towing gliders behind a vehicle should *not* be reported to the AAIB even if they are very serious. Nor do the AAIB have to be informed about any accidents resulting in minor injury and/or minor damage.

BGA

All accidents and incidents involving gliders, motor gliders or tugs normally based at a BGA club or resulting from the flying operations of BGA gliding clubs, must be reported to the BGA. This includes accidents also reported to the AAIB.

'All accidents and incidents' includes accidents anywhere in the world resulting in:

- personal injury, and/or
- damage to gliders, motor gliders, tugs, other aircraft, and 3rd party property

Injury or damage unconnected with gliding operations is excluded, for example a fall in the club restaurant.

An immediate report must be made to the BGA office by email office@gliding.co.uk or by telephone (01162 531051) and followed within 24 hours by an accident report form (www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/safety/forms.htm) containing as much information as possible. Please use the electronic form which is an expandable Word document. The manual version should only be used if you have no access to a computer. Fully completed forms and supporting documentation should be sent to the BGA office within 28 days.

Police

All accidents involving fatal or serious injury must be immediately reported to the local police.

Club officials

As soon as possible, inform the club chairman, CFI, and safety officer about any serious accident.

Notes

1. Guidance on managing the immediate aftermath of a serious accident can be found in the Accident Investigation Handbook and Post Accident Guide (www.gliding.co.uk/bgainfo/safety/forms.htm). The latter two documents will shortly be combined into a new Post Accident Guide.

2. Definitions of serious injury and substantial damage and further details on accident reporting can be found in the preamble to the BGA accident form, and in the Accident Investigation Handbook and Post Accident Guide.

3. Even if the AAIB is conducting the investigation and will publish an accident report, it is important for the accident to be reported speedily to the BGA on the BGA accident form with those details that are available.

4. In the case of accidents to motor gliders and tugs, the accident must be reported to the BGA on a BGA accident form even though the AAIB may have been informed.

5. The responsibility for reporting gliding accidents normally rests with the club from which the glider launched. Where the aircraft was operating from a non-BGA site, for example abroad, the responsibility rests with the operator or owner.

End.

BGA Safety Committee
October 2009