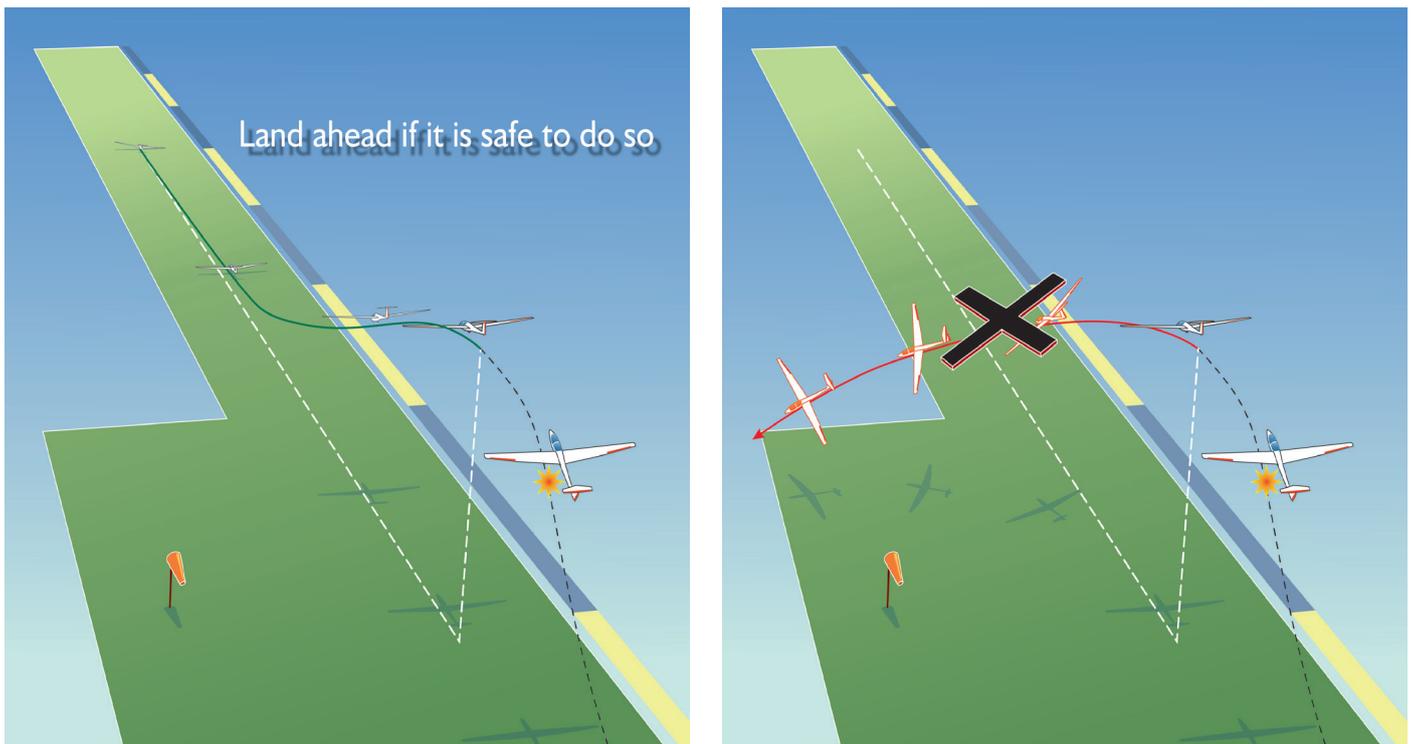


Safety Briefing



Safe winch launching - land ahead if safe to do so

The instructors' manual and the safe winch launch leaflet/booklet teach:

After power loss in mid-launch, adopt the recovery attitude, wait until the glider regains a safe approach speed, and land ahead if it is safe to do so.

Why not turn? The BGA has been teaching 'do not turn' because:

- after a push-over the airspeed can be less than the attitude would suggest
- turning before the glider has accelerated to a safe speed after a launch failure can cause the glider to spin.

After commencing a turn, although the glider may have sufficient airspeed to avoid a stall and spin, no landing area may be immediately available, and this can expose the glider to **other** hazards which can prevent a safe landing. **Sink** is one such hazard, often associated with strong winds and wave. A glider making a 360° turn in still air at a bank angle of 35° and 50kt typically descends by only 70ft. But with 15ft/second sink the height loss in a 360° turn is over 400ft. If the launch failure was at 300ft the glider would crash before completing a 360° turn.

The existence of additional hazards from a turn adds force to the advice:

LAND AHEAD IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

If you are very experienced, you may sometimes be winch launching in challenging conditions. If you have a launch failure we would urge you to land ahead if it is safe to do so.

Land ahead if safe to do so

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