

Incident reporting



This glider was towed to the launch point with a binding brake. The heat from the brake started a fire. Nobody was hurt but the fuselage was destroyed by fire.

There are risks in gliding and it's pretty obvious that each of us needs to take care to avoid accidents. The club's Safety Officer's objective is to keep us all safe. He does this under the guidance of the British Gliding Association (BGA) who require us to report all accidents and serious incidents to them.

What is an incident? The BGA definition of an incident is: "an unusual event which takes place in connection with the aviation activities of the club, but with no injury to persons and no damage to aircraft or property." The BGA requires us to report to them all serious incidents and all incidents with safety implications beyond our own club. Additionally the BGA requires all clubs to have a club incident reporting system that proactively encourages reporting. That's means every club member including you is responsible for reporting incidents!

You may wonder what's the point? 80 years ago Herbert Heinrich showed that for every accident resulting in a fatality or major disabling injury, there are approximately 300 unsafe incidents. The message is that by reducing the number of near-misses you also reduce the chance of the fatality occurring, because you have lowered the frequency of at-risk situations. The ratio of 1 to 300 is debatable but the principle remains that if we can reduce or eliminate unsafe incidents then this should reduce or eliminate serious accidents.

What sort of incidents should you report? Here are some examples:

- Rigging errors
- Air brakes unlocked on take-off or canopy opening in flight
- Aircraft component broke or failed to operate correctly
- Tug upset
- Inadvertent stall or spin, exceeding VNE, lost above cloud, undershot airfield
- Inadequate DI (e.g. binding or inoperative wheel brake, soft tyre)
- Pedestrians on airfield

You can report anonymously if you wish. The Safety Officer will decide if it also needs reporting to the BGA.

Who should report it? Anyone can report an incident. It doesn't matter if there are multiple reports of the same incident. It is best if one of the people involved reports as they will probably know most about it.

What happens next? The Safety Officer will look at your report and decide whether to pass it on to someone else (for example the CFI, Technical Officer or Airfield management) or will deal with it himself. If appropriate the responsible person will act to reduce the risk of recurrence.

How do I report an incident? You can do it online here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/exdFjfSR8SjDmk1h2>

Save this URL in your favourites folder or bookmark it now so you can easily find it when you need it. Alternatively fill in a paper form – they should be available in the launch point log box and in the Portakabin.