

ACCIDENT

Involving the motorised glider registered D-KICR

D-KICR OF 16 MARCH 2000

Event:	Collision with terrain.
Probable cause:	Failure to take into account the meteorological conditions.

Consequences and damage:	Pilot severely injured, aircraft destroyed.
Type of aircraft:	Shempp Hirth Discus bT motorised glider.
Date and time:	16 March 2000 at about 16 h 30.
Owner:	club.
Place:	Seyne Les Alpes (04), summit of Bas Pass (1900 m).
Type of flight:	Local.
Persons on board:	Pilot.
Licenses and experience:	Pilot, 58, VV issued by Germany in 1980, 1375 flying hours on type, of which 19 hours in the previous 30 days.
Meteorological conditions:	Estimated at the site: wind 30°/20 to 25 kt, CAVOK, moderate to strong turbulence.

Circumstances

The pilot took off from Sisteron AD (04) at about 12 h 40 after attending the weather briefing. The pilot sent his last radio message from near the commune of Seyne Les Alpes. When the motorised glider failed to return, the other club members raised the alarm. The aircraft was found two days later at about 18 h 00. The seriously injured pilot was winched out by helicopter.

Examination of the wreckage and of the impact marks indicate that the motorised glider struck a tree and was following a 180° magnetic route at the time of the impact. The engine was not in use at the time of the shock. The pilot was slope flying along the southwest side of the summit of the Bas Pass. Other pilots flying in the same area that afternoon noted strong turbulence.





