

Purpose of this Policy

1. The purpose of this Policy is to define the HPAC/ACVL flight safety objective, governance, and National Flight Safety Program.

HPAC/ACVL flight safety objective

2. Flight safety is a key element of the HPAC/ACVL overall vision, mission and goals as per SOP 100. For flight safety, the HPAC/ACVL objective is a continuous reduction of accidents and of incident severity, commensurate with the promotion and growth of hang gliding, paragliding and speed flying activities in Canada.
3. “Flight safety” encompasses all activities related to the operation of the hang glider or paraglider, including set-up and pack-up, that could affect the safety of its operation, the safety of other paragliders, hang gliders or aircraft, as well as the safety of people and property on the ground.

Flight safety governance

4. The HPAC/ACVL Board of Directors (BoD):
 - a. establishes the flight safety policy (this SOP 400) and National Flight Safety Program therein;
 - b. designates the Chair of the Safety Committee;
 - c. approves the high-level work plans proposed by the Chair and assigns resources accordingly;
 - d. nominates one Director responsible for the safety portfolio, to act as a liaison between the BoD and the Chair.
5. The Chair leads the organization and work of the Safety Committee. The Committee membership should represent various regions of Canada and all disciplines (hang gliding, paragliding, speed flying). On a yearly basis, the Chair produces a high-level work plan to implement the National Flight Safety Program and obtains approval from the BoD through the responsible Director. The Chair has then full authority and is held fully accountable for its implementation. The Chair establishes and implements detailed work plan activities accordingly, and reports on the deliverables to the BoD through the responsible Director on a yearly basis or as decided otherwise by the BoD.
6. The Chair and Safety Committee communicate regularly with HPAC/ACVL members as a whole (for example, for issuing Safety Advisories) or individually (for example, to clarify responses given in an accident or incident report). The Chair and Safety Committee are encouraged to connect with, and learn from other national and international organizations to further their understanding of safety related matters. However, for legal matters or matters involving other Government organizations (for example, a coroner investigation or issue with Transport Canada), the Chair must first coordinate with the BoD through the responsible Director and the HPAC/ACVL Office.

HPAC/ACVL National Flight Safety Program

7. HPAC/ACVL maintains a National Flight Safety Program that provides the framework for all flight safety activities in support of the HPAC/ACVL flight safety objective. The Program elements are:
 - a. maintain information for members that provide flight safety guidance, enhance a culture of flight safety, and develop/coordinate flight safety-oriented education;
 - b. promote safety practices amongst members by increasing awareness of safety issues and initiatives, through a minimum of two Safety Advisories per year;
 - c. assist organizations (provincial associations, clubs, schools, etc.) in developing local flight safety programs/activities complementing the National Flight Safety Program;
 - d. collect, maintain and analyze flight safety statistics;
 - e. communicate accident/incident trends to members on a yearly basis; and
 - f. establish and monitor targets for the reduction of accidents and of incident severity.
8. Information from the National Flight Safety Program may be used for other HPAC/ACVL programs and activities such as training programs, insurances, etc.
9. To support the HPAC/ACVL flight safety objective and the National Flight Safety Program, reporting of accidents and incidents by the members is essential. It allows for statistical data and trend analysis, a starting point to develop preventative and corrective initiatives. SOP 405 provides the guidelines accordingly and is a cornerstone of the Safety Committee activities.