



# SAFETY NOTICE

Issued by Angus Pinkerton - Chairman of the Flying & Safety Committee 27 March, 2000

*All paraglider pilots must READ, DIGEST AND TAKE ACTION on the contents of this Notice and keep it for future reference.*

*If you hold a copy of the BHPA Technical Manual this notice must be inserted into it and retained until it is withdrawn or superseded on instructions from the Chairman FSC.*

## PARAGLIDER COLLAPSES AT LOW LEVEL

There have been a number of reported accidents in which a paraglider collapse at low level has led to a pilot sustaining serious and sometimes fatal injuries. During a recovery from a large collapse a paraglider can lose a considerable amount of height very quickly, particularly if initial recovery attempts lead to further instability. If your height above ground is less than is necessary for a full recovery - or if your attempts to recover are unsuccessful, the first action taken must be to deploy your emergency parachute. Pilots often pursue attempts to regain control beyond the point at which emergency parachute deployment is the only safe option; the consequences are usually very serious. The following are recommendations.

1. All pilots should fly with a suitably sized emergency parachute system.
2. All pilots should practice the deployment of their emergency parachute in a safe environment such as a club repacking session
3. All pilots should become familiar with the actions to be taken following a collapse, and how much height may be lost in recovery.
4. All pilots should make themselves aware of the height lost following a mishandled recovery (SIV course participants may be able to note this while observing other pilots' recovery attempts).
5. All pilots should exercise extreme care whenever there is insufficient height to recover from a major or mishandled collapse.
6. When recovery is not possible in the available height, or if you are in any doubt as to how much height will be lost - **THROW YOUR EMERGENCY PARACHUTE!**