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Gliding Australia



Operations

Operations Advice Notice

No. 01/2024

Potential Cockpit Fires

Purpose

The purpose of the OAN is to alert pilots of potential hazards that can occur at any time due to the alignment of canopies and the sun.

How does this affect you?

Potential fire hazards have developed when moving gliders, inspecting gliders, entering, or exiting gliders. When the glider Perspex canopy and the sun align in a manner where the sun focuses on a spot, high temperature can be achieved quickly leading to combustion. There have been no reports of combustion starting due to this problem when conducting flight.

How to avoid this risk

Above all be vigilant. Consider the sun's position when the canopy is open. The smell of smoke is usually the first recognition of a problem. That is too late. Damage has already started. Using canopy covers to provide shade, even when the canopy is open can reduce the risk. Consider using canopy caps (see image below).



¹ Photo courtesy Wings and Wheels
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