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INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUE No 2 of 2025 **22 December 2025**

RECENT ACCIDENT TRENDS AND SEASONAL OPERATIONAL PRESSURES

Dear General Aviation Community,

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) extends its deepest sympathies to the families, colleagues, and communities affected by recent general aviation (GA) fatal accidents.

For the 2025/26 financial year to date, the Accidents and Incidents Investigations Division (AIID) has recorded **12 fatal accidents**. This represents a significant increase compared to the **two fatal accidents** recorded during the same period last year and signals an immediate and urgent concern for the GA sector.

To provide broader context, the SACAA recorded the following accident trends at the end of recent financial years:

- **2024/25:** 131 total accidents, including **four fatal accidents, resulting in 7** fatalities**.**
- **2023/24:** 115 total accidents, including **thirteen fatal accidents,** resulting in **19 fatalities.**
- **2022/23:** 113 total accidents, including **nine fatal accidents,** resulting in **12 fatalities.**

Preliminary analysis of both recent and historical data continues to highlight several recurring factors:

• **Pilot decision-making:** including continued flight into adverse weather and cognitive biases under pressure.
• **Training and proficiency gaps:** reinforcing the need for refresher training, recurrent checks, and ongoing skills development.

• **Self-imposed pressure:** including inadequate pre-flight planning and operational urgency, particularly during high-demand periods such as the festive season.
• **Human Factors:** including fatigue, complacency, and reduced situational awareness.

To mitigate risks during this peak operational period, the SACAA urges all pilots, operators, and training organisations to:

• Review personal operating practices and reinforce a strong, proactive safety culture.
• Conduct thorough flight planning, weather assessments, and pre-departure briefings.
• Avoid allowing operational or personal commitments to influence safety-critical decisions.
• Revisit training materials, checklists, and proficiency aids.
• Strengthen safety reporting—an essential mechanism for preventing further occurrences.

The SACAA also reminds the GA community of the ongoing **GAARS safety seminars**, which provide detailed analysis of accident trends and practical mitigation strategies.

Additional safety resources, including investigation summaries and guidance material, remain available on the SACAA website. The forthcoming **Safety Hub** will provide additional support to the sector which will consolidate safety content, data and learning tools for the GA community. Implementation of the **General Aviation Safety Strategy (GASS) 2025–2030** continues to progress steadily.

Safety is a shared national responsibility. The SACAA acknowledges the industry's commitment to transparent reporting and collaboration as we work together to reduce GA accidents and protect lives.

Kind Regards,

Signed electronically

Ms. Poppy Khoza
Director of Civil Aviation