Press release

Switzerland, January 2019

Pilots report that they saved their lives by applying the „Vuichard Recovery Technique“ to escape from a vortex ring state.

2018 the VRASF Vuichard Recovery Aviation Safety Foundation received four reports from pilots, who escaped from the vortex ring state close to the ground by applying the „Vuichard Recovery Technique“. These pilots explained that they have saved their lives and the lives of all persons on board with this new technique. Two of those incidents occurred during EMS operation, one of them at night using NVG Night Vision Goggles.

Claude Vuichard, president of the VRASF is pleased that his technique has saved a number of human lives last year. He is also convinced that all vortex ring state accidents could be avoided in the future if his technique were instructed as the primary vortex recovery technique. It is impossible to apply different techniques in critical flight phases close to terrain. Most of the vortex ring accidents occurred in tailwind approaches with less than 15kts wind and during hover operation out of ground effect. The common recovery technique taught so far escapes the vortex ring state by pushing forward but this technique doesn’t work with tailwind or with obstacles in the escape path.

Claude Vuichard suggests therefore that all pilots should be trained in the „Vuichard Recovery Technique“ until it becomes a reflex. Modern helicopters with higher disc load need an immediate reaction to escape a vortex rings state close to the ground because of their high rate of descend.

Contact information

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More information on

Video on Youtube:
https://youtu.be/HjeRSDsy-nE
USHST Airmanship Bulletin:
http://www.ihst.org/portals/54/airmanship/Airmanship%20Vuichard%20FINAL.pdf