

FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION

Safety Alert

Flight Safety Foundation recommends immediate implementation of the following ground-proximity warning system (GPWS) procedures by all flight operations:

- **When a GPWS warning occurs, pilots should immediately, and without hesitating to evaluate the warning, execute the pull-up action recommended in the company procedure manual;**
- **In the absence of a company procedure, an immediate maximum performance full-power climb should be initiated and continued until the GPWS warning stops and the crew determines that terrain clearance is assured;**
- **This immediate pull-up procedure should be followed except in clear daylight visual meteorological conditions when the flight crew can immediately and unequivocally confirm a false GPWS warning; and,**
- **Air traffic control (ATC) should be notified as soon as possible after a GPWS warning or pull-up.**

Flight Safety Foundation, drawing on broad support from the worldwide aviation industry, has launched an ambitious international project to reduce by 50 percent the number of controlled-flight-into-terrain (CFIT) accidents and approach/landing accidents during the next five years. This Safety Alert is being distributed to air carriers and other flight operators throughout the world as a result of the Foundation CFIT task force's early findings, which are listed below.

- CFIT represents the single largest risk to aircraft;
- Fifty percent of recent CFIT accidents occurred to aircraft without operational GPWS; many others involved early-generation GPWS known to give false warnings;
- Of those CFIT accidents in which aircraft were equipped with a properly operating GPWS, an alarming number of flight crews did not follow recommended pull-up procedures in response to GPWS warnings; and,
- Flight crews in CFIT accidents often ignored GPWS warnings; delayed recommended pull-up procedures while trying to evaluate the accuracy of the GPWS warning; or failed to respond with sufficient aggressive pull-up action.

