

# **0423 APCO Powered Parachute Occurrence Investigation**

## **Executive Summary**

On April 23rd, 2021, about local time 1230, an ultra-light vehicle (powered parachute) model APCO THRUST HP S, with one operator on-board, took off from the Dulan Seaside Park, Donghe Township, Taitung County, and then crashed onto the beach outside the park.

About 1232, a local police officer received the occurrence notification. Two eyewitnesses rushed to assist for rescue, the operator maintained a clear consciousness and was sent to Taitung MacKay Memorial Hospital for emergency treatment. The operator was seriously injured and hospitalized for 15 days. The vehicle suffered light damage in repairable condition, and there is no fire or oil leakage on site.

## **Conclusion**

1. The possible cause of this accident is that the vehicle's maneuverability and stability were affected by unstable airflow during low altitude operation. The operator accidentally lost control and fell to the ground due to fear of drifting into the sea with the umbrella rope to control the direction.
2. The operator did not hold an ultralight vehicle operation certificate. The vehicle was assembled by the operator himself, and it has not been inspected by the Civil Aviation Administration, and the operator remodeled the vehicle and updated the engine without performing relevant adjustments which gave rise to the potential flight risks.
3. The operational site is not a legal airspace.

## **Safety Recommendations**

To: **Civil Aeronautics Administration, Taiwan**

1. Re-examine the illegal ban on ultra-light vehicles, and counsel the related activities legalization.

To: **Taitung County Government**

1. Comprehensively review illegal ultra-light vehicle activities in the jurisdiction; assist the Civil Aviation Administration of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications in strengthening the ban on the illegal ultra-light vehicles in the jurisdiction.

The final report is in Chinese only and available for download at <https://www.ttsb.gov.tw>