FS5A and FS5C - Start Here

Thank you for purchasing FMA Flight Systems FS5A or FS5C. This advanced Flight System package represents the leading edge in safe, reliable radio controlled airborne equipment. All of the information you need to successfully install and utilize the individual components is provided in the user guides specific to the equipments included in the Flight System you purchased. Your Flight System should include the following User Guides:

1) FS5 Receiver User guide
2) FS Receiver Viewer Software User Guide
3) Co Pilot (CPD4) User Guide

Please read each of the manuals carefully as you install the components and prepare to fly your aircraft. There may be some new concepts that you will need to learn. The manuals will walk you through everything step-by-step as well as provide you interesting technical information about your new components. After you are familiar with programming receiver failsafe settings on your new FS5 and the remote on/off feature of your Co Pilot, then come back and re-read the following:

Recommended Settings for Failsafe Receiver used in combination with Co Pilot:

FMA Flight Systems are the first products available to the R/C hobby to provide "true failsafe". Yes, failsafe receivers have existed for a long time, but a failsafe receiver alone cannot prevent or delay the inevitable event triggered by loss of signal or heavy interference. That event is of course, a crash. In order to take full advantage of your new true failsafe equipment, FMA recommends the following "general" settings to your Flight Systems equipment. Be advised, these settings pertain to fixed wing aircraft. For helicopters, these settings may need to be modified slightly. In the event of signal loss; i.e., "my transmitter just died", or heavy interference, the objective is to force the airplane into a stable, slow descending pattern if the receiver enters into failsafe mode. The Co Pilot will maintain a level attitude provided that it is either 1) already on; or 2) turned on by the failsafe feature of the receiver.

Once the receiver is installed and operating properly and the Co Pilot is installed and setup is complete:

1) Using the FS5 User Guide for reference, program the following failsafe settings into the receiver's memory: program throttle for 1/2 power; program ailerons for level flight; program rudder for slow turn.
2) If your transmitter is 4 channels, true failsafe will only maintain level flight attitude if you leave the Co Pilot on at all times. The Co Pilot is the component that makes "true failsafe" possible by maintaining level flight in the event of loss of signal.
3) If you have more than 4 channels in your transmitter, use channel 5 (retracts) to control the remote on/off feature of the Co Pilot; or use a proportional auxiliary channel to provide variable sensitivity control of the Co Pilot—see the Co Pilot User Guide for more information.
4) If you connect the remote feature of Co Pilot, set failsafe on the corresponding receiver channel to turn Co Pilot ON in the event of failsafe.

The above settings may need to be fine-tuned in order to work properly with your aircraft type and configuration. You can test these settings as follows:

1) After take-off, fly to a high altitude so that you have plenty of time to react in case the settings are not correct.
2) Switch the transmitter off. After 1 second, the aircraft should stabilize and enter into a flat, low speed turn. This gives you time to figure out the problem and take corrective action or to warn spectators who may be watching.