



SAFETY GRAM

November 2016

Well ladies and gentlemen, old man winter has risen and is upon us again. We all know that winter flying can adversely affect flying operations. Compound poor weather with gusty winds, blowing snow, icing and less than nominal preparation; "Houston, we have a problem." Winter flying requires thorough planning in an effort to minimize the effects of seasonal operations. We should all take a moment and re-familiarize ourselves with proper winter flying operations.

In any case, the challenges of winter flying can easily be overcome with caution and the use of good pilot judgement. Please continue to emphasize safety in our flying clubs. We are well ahead of the industry standard, with regards to safety, and that's primarily because of excellent management and great instruction. It is absolutely imperative that our pilots have obtained adequate cold weather knowledge appropriate to the aircraft being used as well as knowledge of the geography and weather patterns of the areas they're flying in.

I cannot stress enough how important good flight planning is to winter flying. Instructors, take the time to sit with your students and demonstrate good preflight planning. Provide them with techniques and personal experiences. Instruct them how to plan from departure to arrival during winter operations and all the associated hazards. Students, use the experience of our instructors to aid you in obtaining knowledge. As you continue to fly, you'll gain experience and most likely develop your own techniques and strategies for cold weather operations. Winter operations demand an attention to detail and a discipline that few pilots practice on sunny days. Just remember this; **YOU**, the pilot, ultimately are responsible for the GO, NO-GO decision based on the best information available. I know we all love flying, however when weather dictates otherwise, don't let compulsion take the place of good judgment.

I have provided a few links to assist you in preparation for proper winter flying:

<http://generalaviationnews.com/2016/02/18/tips-for-safe-winter-flying/>

<https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/active-pilots/safety-and-technique/weather/cold-weather-operations>

To most people, the sky is the limit. To those who love aviation, the sky is home.

FLY SAFELY!



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