



SAFETY GRAM

October 2020

“More than anything else, the sensation of flying is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost. If you can conceive of such a combination.” - Wilbur Wright

Preparing for flight during the fall. With the cooler temperatures on the horizon come increased performance for our aircraft, however, there are some additional aspects to consider before firing up the engine.

Sunlight: Be cognizant that daylight hours are decreasing. The sun will rise later in the morning and go down earlier in the evenings. Ensure you plan for this change, especially if your flying routine during the summer months took place early in the morning or later in the evening.

Icing: As we know with the challenge of operating carbureted engines, icing can occur in some of the most unanticipated conditions, e.g. when temperatures are as warm as 70° F. Additionally, snow, freezing rain, and slush pose performance threats to the airfoils. Get ahead on your flight planning and know what weather conditions you may encounter. Use caution while taxiing; travel at a slower speed and be ready to adjust the throttle and apply rudder more often than you would during conditions that are more favorable. Apply sound risk management to weigh your decision with the safety of personnel and protection of resources as a top priority.

Flat Light: Various illusions present themselves while flying in inclement weather; the concept of flat light occurs when there is snow on the ground. You may find that distinguishing your height above the ground using pilotage techniques to be difficult. The inability to rely on shadows and contrasts from objects could lead you to believe you are flying at a higher altitude than you really are. Utilize your various tools through pilot resources management and checking in with your altimeter more often to mitigate that potential hazard.

Emergencies: In the event you find yourself in an unfavorable situation, where you will be subjected to cold weather conditions, you (and your passengers) will be thankful if you prepared ahead of time. Bring along the following items to tie you over until rescue efforts arrive: water-resistant jacket and pants, boots, gloves, hand warmers, caps/beanies, a thermos of a hot beverage, high protein/carbohydrate foods, etc.

A few minutes of pre-planning to account for unique seasonal circumstances can make your flying experience much more enjoyable.

CONTINUE TO FLY SAFE!

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