

Practical Risk Management For Single-Pilot IFR

PAVE Checklist

PAVE your way to a safe Single-Pilot IFR Flight. Before you fly, examine your risk factors.

Pilot

Make a frank assessment of your readiness for this flight.

- Do I pass a personal preflight with the **IMSAFE** Checklist?
 - Illness
 - Medication
 - Stress
 - Alcohol
 - Fatigue, Food & Water
 - Emotion

Consider Currency, Recency and Proficiency

- Am I current?
- Do I feel proficient for the tasks on this flight?
- Am I comfortable with the avionics in this airplane?
- Am I proficient using this autopilot?
- Have I set personal weather minimums for:
 - ceiling above published minimums
 - visibility above published minimums
 - clearance between cruise altitude and forecast freezing level
 - additional fuel reserves

Aircraft

Does this aircraft have:

- Adequate performance margins for conditions on this flight?
- Required equipment functioning properly?
- An autopilot?
- Satisfactory cockpit lighting and flashlights?
- Current avionics databases?

enVironment

Do I have:

- The big weather picture?
- Weather at or above personal minimums?
- Any suspicious indications in the forecast?
- Deteriorating conditions
 - at my destination?
 - at my alternate(s)?
- Adequate airfield facilities for conditions?

External Pressures

Have I:

- Made provisions in case the trip cannot be completed?
- Taken steps to relieve the pressure of arriving at a certain time?
- Prepared to manage my own goal oriented behavior?
- Addressed passenger expectations and concerns?

Before Engine Start

- Organize cockpit
- Brief passengers
- Ensure flight planning and wx info handy
- Get clearance and program GPS
- Check flashlights & extra batteries
- Use plan for COM/NAV radios

CHORD Checklist

Before taking the runway do a CHORD check

- Conditions: runway, weather
- Hazards associated with conditions: crosswind, slick runway, high density altitude, obstacles
- Operational changes required: flap setting, climb profile
- Runway required and return procedures: VFR or IFR return
- Departure: review departure clearance (route and altitude)

CARE Attention Scan

Consequences

- Am I thinking: *What is changing? What are the consequences?*
- Is the weather different than forecast?
- Have I checked my groundspeed lately?
- Am I on my flight plan for fuel and time?

Alternatives

- Is the changing weather reducing my alternatives?
- Where is my best alternate airport **RIGHT NOW**?
- Should I land now and expand my circle of alternatives?
- Do I have a good escape plan?

Reality

- Am I in denial about changes?
- Am I willing to change my plan when things change?

External Pressures

- Am I managing my own goal-oriented behavior?
- Am I being influenced by time pressure?
- Am I ignoring risk factors in order to reach my destination?
- Am I managing expectations and concerns of passengers and others?

Inflight Practices

- Make use of low workload periods to shift tasks from high workload periods
- Use all your resources to reduce your workload
- Use your checklist to back up your cockpit flow pattern
- Vocalize new altitudes, clearances and restrictions, and approaching intermediate or final altitudes
- Use ATC as a resource
- Brief your arrival and landing procedure before the initial approach fix
- Review the visual glidepath available for your landing transition
- If approach not stabilized at 500 feet AGL, go missed approach

