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?
  - – **I**llness
  - – **M**edication
  - – **S**tress
  - – **A**lcohol
  - – **F**atigue, Food & Water
  - – **E**motion

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?

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Before Engine Start

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

CHORD Checklist

Before taking the runway do a CHORD check

- – **C**onditions: runway, weather
- – **H**azards associated with conditions: crosswind, slick runway, high density altitude, obstacles
- – **O**perational changes required: flap setting, climb profile
- – **R**unway required and return procedures: VFR or IFR return
- – **D**eparture: 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

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