



**Beechcraft**  
**Twin Engine (Piston)**

**SECTION X**  
**SAFETY INFORMATION**  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Beech Aircraft Corporation has developed this special summary publication of safety information to refresh pilots' and owners' knowledge of safety related subjects. Topics in this publication are dealt with in more detail in FAA Advisory Circulars and other publications pertaining to the subject of safe flying.

The skilled pilot recognizes that safety consciousness is an integral - and never-ending - part of his or her job. Be thoroughly familiar with your airplane. Know its limitations and your own. Maintain your currency, or fly with a qualified instructor until you are current and proficient. Practice emergency procedures at safe altitudes and airspeeds, preferably with a qualified instructor pilot, until the required action can be accomplished without reference to the manual. Periodically review this Safety Information as part of your recurring training regimen.

BEECHCRAFT airplanes are designed and built to provide you with many years of safe and efficient transportation. By maintaining your BEECHCRAFT properly and flying it prudently you will realize its full potential.

..... Beech Aircraft Corporation



**WARNING**

Because your airplane is a high performance, high speed transportation vehicle, designed for operation in a three-dimensional environment, special safety precautions must be observed to reduce the risk of fatal or serious injuries to the pilot(s) and occupant(s).

It is mandatory that you fully understand the contents of this publication and the other operating and maintenance manuals which accompany the airplane; that FAA requirements for ratings, certifications and review be scrupulously complied with; and that you allow only persons who are properly licensed and rated, and thoroughly familiar with the contents of the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual to operate the airplane.

**IMPROPER OPERATION OR MAINTENANCE OF AN AIRPLANE, NO MATTER HOW WELL BUILT INITIALLY, CAN RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE OR TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE AIRPLANE, ALONG WITH SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURIES TO ALL OCCUPANTS.**

## **GENERAL**

As a pilot, you are responsible to yourself and to those who fly with you, to other pilots and their passengers and to people on the ground, to fly wisely and safely.

The following material in this Safety Information publication covers several subjects in limited detail. Here are some condensed Do's and Don'ts.

### **DO'S**

Be thoroughly familiar with your airplane, know its limitations and your own.

Be current in your airplane, or fly with a qualified instructor until you are current. Practice until you are proficient.

Preplan all aspects of your flight - including a proper weather briefing and adequate fuel reserves.

Use services available - weather briefing, inflight weather and Flight Service Station.

Carefully preflight your airplane.

Use the approved checklist.

Have more than enough fuel for takeoff, plus the trip, and an adequate reserve.

Be sure your weight loading and C.G. are within limits.

Use seatbelts and shoulder harnesses at all times.

Be sure all loose articles and baggage are secured.

Check freedom and proper direction of operation of all controls during preflight.

Maintain the prescribed airspeeds in takeoff, climb, descent, and landing.

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Avoid wake turbulence (Vortices).

Preplan fuel and fuel tank management before the actual flight. Utilize auxiliary tanks only in level cruise flight. Take off and land on the fullest main tank, NEVER use auxiliary fuel tanks for take off or landing.

Practice emergency procedures at safe altitudes and air-speeds, preferably with a qualified instructor pilot, until the required action is instinctive.

Keep your airplane in good mechanical condition.

Stay informed and alert; fly in a sensible manner.

### **DON'TS**

Don't take off with frost, ice or snow on the airplane.

Don't take off with less than minimum recommended fuel, plus adequate reserves, and don't run the tank dry before switching.

Don't fly in a reckless, show-off, or careless manner.

Don't fly into thunderstorms or severe weather.

Don't fly in possible icing conditions unless the airplane is approved, properly equipped, and all required equipment is operational for flight in icing conditions.

Don't fly close to mountainous terrain.

Don't apply controls abruptly or with high forces that could exceed design loads of the airplane.

Don't fly into weather conditions that are beyond your ratings or current proficiency.

Don't fly when physically or mentally exhausted or below par.

Don't trust to luck.

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

There is a wealth of information available to the pilot created for the sole purpose of making your flying safer, easier and more efficient. Take advantage of this knowledge and be prepared for an emergency in the event that one should occur.

## **PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK AND FAA APPROVED AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL**

You must be thoroughly familiar with the contents of your operating manuals, placards, and check lists to ensure safe utilization of your airplane. When the airplane was manufactured, it was equipped with one or more of the following: placards, Owner's Manual, FAA Flight Manual, Approved Airplane Flight Manual Supplements, Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual. Beech has revised and reissued many of the early manuals for certain models of airplanes in GAMA Standard Format as Pilot's Operating Handbooks and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manuals. For simplicity and convenience, all official manuals in various models are referred to as the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual. If the airplane has changed ownership, the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual may have been misplaced or may not be current. Replacement handbooks may be obtained from any BEECHCRAFT Authorized Outlet.

## **BEECHCRAFT SERVICE PUBLICATIONS**

Beech Aircraft Corporation publishes a wide variety of manuals, service letters, service instructions, service bulletins, safety communiques and other publications for the various models of BEECHCRAFT airplanes. Information on how



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to obtain publications relating to your airplane is contained in BEECHCRAFT Service Bulletin number 2001, entitled "General - BEECHCRAFT Service Publications - What is Available and How to Obtain It."

Beech Aircraft Corporation automatically mails original issues and revisions of BEECHCRAFT Service Bulletins (Mandatory, Recommended and Optional), FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual Supplements, reissues and revisions of FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manuals, Flight Handbooks, Owners Manuals, Pilot's Operating Manuals and Pilot's Operating Handbooks, and original issues and revisions of BEECHCRAFT Safety Communiques to BEECHCRAFT Owner addresses as listed by the FAA Aircraft Registration Branch List and the BEECHCRAFT International Owner Notification Service List. While this information is distributed by Beech Aircraft Corporation, Beech can not make changes in the name or address furnished by the FAA. The owner must contact the FAA regarding any changes to name or address. Their address is: FAA Aircraft Registration Branch (AAC250) P.O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, OK 73125, Phone (405) 680-2131.

It is the responsibility of the FAA owner of record to ensure that any mailings from Beech are forwarded to the proper persons. Often the FAA registered owner is a bank or financing company or an individual not in possession of the airplane. Also, when an airplane is sold, there is a lag in processing the change in registration with the FAA. If you are a new owner, contact your BEECHCRAFT Authorized Outlet and ensure your manuals are up to date.

Beech Aircraft Corporation provides a subscription service which provides for direct factory mailing of BEECHCRAFT publications applicable to a specific serial number airplane. Details concerning the fees and ordering information for this owner subscription service are contained in Service Bulletin number 2001.

For owners who choose not to apply for a Publications Revision Subscription Service, Beech provides a free Owner

Notification Service by which owners are notified by post card of BEECHCRAFT manual reissues, revisions and supplements which are being issued applicable to the airplane owned. On receipt of such notification, the owner may obtain the publication through a BEECHCRAFT Authorized Outlet. This notification service is available when requested by the owner. This request may be made by using the owner notification request card furnished with the loose equipment of each airplane at the time of delivery, or by a letter requesting this service, referencing the specific airplane serial number owned. Write to :

Supervisor, Special Services  
Dept. 52  
Beech Aircraft Corporation  
P.O. Box 85  
Wichita, Kansas 67201-0085

From time to time Beech Aircraft Corporation issues BEECHCRAFT Safety Communiques dealing with the safe operation of a specific series of airplanes, or airplanes in general. It is recommended that each owner/operator maintain a current file of these publications. Back issues of BEECHCRAFT Safety Communiques may be obtained without charge by sending a request, including airplane model and serial number, to the Supervisor, Special Services, at the address listed above.

Airworthiness Directives (AD's) are not issued by the manufacturer. They are issued and available from the FAA.

## **FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATIONS**

FAR Part 91, General Operating and Flight Rules, is a document of law governing operation of airplanes and the owner's and pilot's responsibilities. Some of the subjects covered are:

Responsibilities and authority of the pilot-in-command

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Certificates required

Liquor and Drugs

Flight plans

Preflight action

Fuel requirements

Flight Rules

Maintenance, preventive maintenance, alterations, inspection and maintenance records

You, as a pilot, have responsibilities under government regulations. The regulations are designed for your protection and the protection of your passengers and the public. Compliance is mandatory.

## **AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

FAR Part 39 specifies that no person may operate a product to which an Airworthiness Directive issued by the FAA applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that Airworthiness Directive.

## **AIRMAN'S INFORMATION MANUAL**

The Airman's Information Manual (AIM) is designed to provide airmen with basic flight information and ATC procedures for use in the national airspace system of the United States. It also contains items of interest to pilots concerning health and medical facts, factors affecting flight safety, a pilot/controller glossary of terms in the Air Traffic Control system, information on safety, and accident/hazard reporting. It is revised at six-month intervals and can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

This document contains a wealth of pilot information. Among the subjects are:

Controlled Airspace



Emergency Procedures  
Services Available to Pilots  
Weather and Icing  
Radio Phraseology and Technique  
Mountain Flying  
Airport Operations  
Wake Turbulence - Vortices  
Clearances and Separations  
Medical Facts for Pilots  
Preflight  
Bird Hazards  
Departures - IFR  
Good Operating Practices  
Enroute - IFR  
Airport Location Directory  
Arrival - IFR

All pilots must be thoroughly familiar with and use the information in the AIM.

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

NOTAMS (Notices to Airmen) are documents that have information of a time-critical nature that would affect a pilot's decision to make a flight; for example, an airport closed, terminal radar out of service, or enroute navigational aids out of service.

## **FAA ADVISORY CIRCULARS**

The FAA issues Advisory Circulars to inform the aviation public in a systematic way of nonregulatory material of interest. Advisory Circulars contain a wealth of information with which the prudent pilot should be familiar. A complete list of current FAA Advisory Circulars is published in AC 00-2, which lists Advisory Circulars that are for sale, as well as those distributed free of charge by the FAA, and provides



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ordering information. Many Advisory Circulars which are for sale can be purchased locally in aviation bookstores or at FBO's. These documents are subject to periodic revision. Be certain the Advisory Circular you are using is the latest revision available. Some of the Advisory Circulars of interest to pilots are:

<b>*00-6</b>	Aviation Weather
<b>00-24</b>	Thunderstorms
<b>00-30</b>	Rules of Thumb for Avoiding or Minimizing Encounters with Clear Air Turbulence
<b>*00-45</b>	Aviation Weather Services
<b>00-46</b>	Aviation Safety Reporting Program
<b>20-5</b>	Plane Sense
<b>20-32</b>	Carbon Monoxide (CO) Contamination in Aircraft - Detection and Prevention
<b>20-35</b>	Tie-Down Sense
<b>20-43</b>	Aircraft Fuel Control
<b>20-105</b>	Engine-Power Loss Accident Prevention
<b>20-113</b>	Pilot Precautions and Procedures to be Taken in Preventing Aircraft Reciprocating Engine Induction System and Fuel System Icing Problems
<b>20-125</b>	Water in Aviation Fuels
<b>21-4</b>	Special Flight Permits for Operation of Overweight Aircraft
<b>43-9</b>	Maintenance Records: General Aviation Aircraft

<b>43-12</b>	Preventive Maintenance
<b>60-4</b>	Pilot's Spatial Disorientation
<b>60-6</b>	Airplane Flight Manuals (AFM), Approved Manual Materials, Markings and Placards - Airplanes
<b>60-12</b>	Availability of Industry-Developed Guidelines for the Conduct of the Bien- nial Flight Review
<b>60-13</b>	The Accident Prevention Counselor Program
<b>*61-9</b>	Pilot Transition Courses for Complex Single-Engine and Light Twin-Engine Airplanes
<b>*61-21</b>	Flight Training Handbook
<b>*61-23</b>	Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge
<b>*61-27</b>	Instrument Flying Handbook
<b>61-67</b>	Hazards Associated with Spins in Air- planes Prohibited from Intentional Spinning.
<b>61-84</b>	Role of Preflight Preparation
<b>*67-2</b>	Medical Handbook for Pilots
<b>90-23</b>	Aircraft Wake Turbulence
<b>90-42</b>	Traffic Advisory Practices at Nontower Airports
<b>90-48</b>	Pilot's Role in Collision Avoidance
<b>90-66</b>	Recommended Standard Traffic Pat- terns for Airplane Operations at Uncontrolled Airports

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- 90-85**                      Severe Weather Avoidance Plan (SWAP)
- 91-6**                      Water, Slush and Snow on the Runway
- 91-13**                     Cold Weather Operation of Aircraft
- \*91-23**                    Pilot's Weight and Balance Handbook
- 91-26**                    Maintenance and Handling of Air Driven Gyroscopic Instruments
- 91-33**                    Use of Alternate Grades of Aviation Gasoline for Grade 80/87
- 91-35**                    Noise, Hearing Damage, and Fatigue in General Aviation Pilots
- 91-43**                    Unreliable Airspeed Indications
- 91-44**                    Operational and Maintenance Practices for Emergency Locator Transmitters and Receivers
- 91-46**                    Gyroscopic Instruments - Good Operating Practices
- 91-50**                    Importance of Transponder Operations and Altitude Reporting
- 91-51**                    Airplane Deice and Anti-ice Systems
- 91-59**                    Inspection and Care of General Aviation Aircraft Exhaust Systems
- 91-65**                    Use of Shoulder Harness in Passenger Seats
- 103-4**                    Hazards Associated with Sublimation of Solid Carbon Dioxide (Dry Ice) Aboard Aircraft
- 135-9**                    FAR Part 135 Icing Limitations

**210-5A**

**Military Flying Activities**

**\* For Sale**

## **FAA GENERAL AVIATION NEWS**

FAA General Aviation News is published by the FAA in the interest of flight safety. The magazine is designed to promote safety in the air by calling the attention of general aviation airmen to current technical, regulatory and procedural matters affecting the safe operation of airplanes. FAA General Aviation News is sold on subscription by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 20402.

## **FAA ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The FAA assigns accident prevention specialists to each Flight Standards and General Aviation District Office to organize accident prevention program activities. In addition, there are over 3,000 volunteer airmen serving as accident prevention counselors, sharing their technical expertise and professional knowledge with the general aviation community. The FAA conducts seminars and workshops, and distributes invaluable safety information under this program.

Usually the airport manager, the FAA Flight Service Station (FSS), or Fixed Base Operator (FBO), will have a list of accident prevention counselors and their phone numbers available. All Flight Standards and General Aviation District Offices have a list of the counselors serving the District.

Before flying over unfamiliar territory, such as mountainous terrain or desert areas, it is advisable for transient pilots to consult with local counselors. They will be familiar with the more desirable routes, the wind and weather conditions, and the service and emergency landing areas that are available along the way. They can also offer advice on the type of emergency equipment you should be carrying.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration periodically issue, in greater detail, general aviation pamphlets concerning aviation safety. FAA Regional Offices also publish material under the FAA General Aviation Accident Prevention Program. These can be obtained at FAA Offices, Weather Stations, Flight Service Stations or Airport Facilities. Some of these are titled:

12 Golden Rules for Pilots  
Weather or Not  
Disorientation  
Plane Sense  
Weather Info Guide for Pilots  
Wake Turbulence  
Don't Trust to Luck, Trust to Safety  
Rain, Fog, Snow  
Thunderstorm - TRW  
Icing  
Pilot's Weather Briefing Guide  
Thunderstorms Don't Flirt ... Skirt 'em  
IFR-VFR - Either Way Disorientation Can Be Fatal  
IFR Pilot Exam-O-Grams  
VFR Pilot Exam-O-Grams  
Flying Light Twins Safely  
Tips on Engine Operation in Small General Aviation Aircraft  
Estimating Inflight Visibility  
Is the Aircraft Ready for Flight  
Tips on Mountain Flying  
Tips on Desert Flying  
Always Leave Yourself An Out  
Safety Guide for Private Aircraft Owners  
Tips on How to Use the Flight Planner  
Tips on the Use of Ailerons and Rudder  
Some Hard Facts About Soft Landings

Propeller Operation and Care

Torque "What it Means to the Pilot"

Weight and Balance. An Important Safety Consideration for Pilots

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC TOPICS**

### **MAINTENANCE**

Safety of flight begins with a well maintained airplane. Make it a habit to keep your airplane and all of its equipment in airworthy condition. Keep a "squawk list" on board, and see that all discrepancies, however minor, are noted and promptly corrected.

Schedule your maintenance regularly, and have your airplane serviced by a reputable organization. Be suspicious of bargain prices for maintenance, repair and inspections.

It is the responsibility of the owner and the operator to assure that the airplane is maintained in an airworthy condition and that proper maintenance records are kept.

Use only genuine BEECHCRAFT or BEECHCRAFT approved parts obtained from BEECHCRAFT approved sources, in connection with the maintenance and repair of Beech airplanes.

Genuine BEECHCRAFT parts are produced and inspected under rigorous procedures to insure airworthiness and suitability for use in Beech airplane applications. Parts purchased from sources other than BEECHCRAFT, even though outwardly identical in appearance, may not have had the required tests and inspections performed, may be different in fabrication techniques and materials, and may be dangerous when installed in an airplane.

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Salvaged airplane parts, reworked parts obtained from non-BEECHCRAFT approved sources or parts, components, or structural assemblies, the service history of which is unknown or cannot be authenticated, may have been subjected to unacceptable stresses or temperatures or have other hidden damage not discernible through routine visual or usual nondestructive testing techniques. This may render the part, component or structural assembly, even though originally manufactured by BEECHCRAFT, unsuitable and unsafe for airplane use.

BEECHCRAFT expressly disclaims any responsibility for malfunctions, failures, damage or injury caused by use of non-BEECHCRAFT parts.

Airplanes operated for Air Taxi or other than normal operation, and airplanes operated in humid tropics, or cold and damp climates, etc., may need more frequent inspections for wear, corrosion and/or lack of lubrication. In these areas, periodic inspections should be performed until the operator can set his own inspection periods based on experience.

**NOTE**

The required periods do not constitute a guarantee that the item will reach the period without malfunction, as the aforementioned factors cannot be controlled by the manufacturer.

Corrosion and its effects must be treated at the earliest possible opportunity. A clean, dry surface is virtually immune to corrosion. Make sure that all drain holes remain unobstructed. Protective films and sealants help to keep corrosive agents from contacting metallic surfaces. Corrosion inspections should be made most frequently under high-corrosion-risk operating conditions, such as in areas of



excessive airborne salt concentrations (e.g., near the sea) and in high-humidity areas (e.g., tropical regions).

If you have purchased a used airplane, have your mechanic inspect the airplane registration records, logbooks and maintenance records carefully. An unexplained period of time for which the airplane has been out of service, or unexplained significant repairs may well indicate the airplane has been seriously damaged in a prior accident. Have your mechanics inspect a used airplane carefully. Take the time to ensure that you really know what you are buying when you buy a used airplane.

## **HAZARDS OF UNAPPROVED MODIFICATIONS**

Many airplane modifications are approved under Supplemental Type Certificates (STC's). Before installing an STC on your airplane, check to make sure that the STC does not conflict with other STC's that have already been installed. Because approval of an STC is obtained by the individual STC holder based upon modification of the original type design, it is possible for STC's to interfere with each other when both are installed. Never install an unapproved modification of any type, however innocent the apparent modification may seem. Always obtain proper FAA approval.

Airplane owners and maintenance personnel are particularly cautioned not to make attachments to, or otherwise modify, seats from original certification without approval from the FAA Engineering and Manufacturing District Office having original certification responsibility for that make and model.

Any unapproved attachment or modification to seat structure may increase load factors and metal stress which could cause failure of seat structure at a lesser "G" force than exhibited for original certification.



Examples of unauthorized attachments found are drilling holes in seat tubing to attach fire extinguishers and drilling holes to attach approach plate book bins to seats.

## **FLIGHT PLANNING**

FAR Part 91 requires that each pilot in command, before beginning a flight, familiarize himself with all available information concerning that flight.

Obtain a current and complete preflight briefing. This should consist of local, enroute and destination weather and enroute navaid information. Enroute terrain and obstructions, alternate airports, airport runways active, length of runways, and takeoff and landing distances for the airplane for conditions expected should be known.

The prudent pilot will review his planned enroute track and stations and make a list for quick reference. It is strongly recommended a flight plan be filed with Flight Service Stations, even though the flight may be VFR. Also, advise Flight Service Stations of changes or delays of one hour or more and remember to close the flight plan at destination.

The pilot must be completely familiar with the performance of the airplane and performance data in the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual. The resultant effect of temperature and pressure altitude must be taken into account in performance if not accounted for on the charts. An applicable FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual must be aboard the airplane at all times and include the weight and balance forms and equipment list.

## **PASSENGER INFORMATION CARDS**

Beech has available, for most current production airplanes, passenger information cards which contain important information on the proper use of restraint systems, oxygen

masks, emergency exits and emergency bracing procedures. Passenger information cards may be obtained at any BEECHCRAFT Authorized Outlet. A pilot should not only be familiar with the information contained in the cards, but should always, prior to flight, inform the passengers of the information contained in the information cards. The pilot should orally brief the passengers on the proper use of restraint systems, doors and emergency exits, and other emergency procedures, as required by Part 91 of the FAR's.

## **STOWAGE OF ARTICLES**

The space between the seat pan and the floor is utilized to provide space for seat displacement. If hard, solid objects are stored beneath seats, the energy absorbing feature is lost and severe spinal injuries can occur to occupants.

Prior to flight, pilots should insure that articles are not stowed beneath seats that would restrict seat pan energy absorption or penetrate the seat in event of a high vertical velocity accident.

## **FLIGHT OPERATIONS**

### **GENERAL**

The pilot **MUST** be thoroughly familiar with **ALL INFORMATION** published by the manufacturer concerning the airplane, and is required by law to operate the airplane in accordance with the FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual and placards installed.

### **PREFLIGHT INSPECTION**

In addition to maintenance inspections and preflight information required by FAR Part 91, a complete, careful preflight inspection is imperative.

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Each airplane has a checklist for the preflight inspection which must be followed. **USE THE CHECKLIST.**

***WEIGHT AND BALANCE***

Maintaining center of gravity within the approved envelope throughout the planned flight is an important safety consideration.

The airplane must be loaded so as not to exceed the weight and center of gravity (C.G.) limitations. Airplanes that are loaded above the maximum takeoff or landing weight limitations will have an overall lower level of performance compared to that shown in the Performance section of the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual. If loaded above maximum takeoff weight, takeoff distance and the landing distance will be longer than that shown in the Performance section; the stalling speed will be higher, rate of climb, the cruising speed, and the range of the airplane at any level of fuel will all be lower than shown in the Performance section.

If an airplane is loaded so that the C.G. is forward of the forward limit it will require additional control movements for maneuvering the airplane with correspondingly higher control forces. The pilot may have difficulty during takeoff and landing because of the elevator control limits.

If an airplane is loaded aft of the aft C.G. limitation, the pilot will experience a lower level of stability. Airplane characteristics that indicate a lower stability level are; lower control forces, difficulty in trimming the airplane, lower control forces for maneuvering with attendant danger of structural overload, decayed stall characteristics, and a lower level of lateral-directional damping.

Ensure that all cargo and baggage is properly secured before takeoff. A sudden shift in balance at rotation can cause controllability problems.



## ***AUTOPILOTS AND ELECTRIC TRIM SYSTEMS***

Because there are several different models of autopilots and electric trim systems installed in Beech airplanes and different installations and switch positions are possible from airplane to airplane, it is essential that every owner/operator review his Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) Supplements and ensure that the supplements properly describe the autopilot and trim installations on his specific airplane. Each pilot, prior to flight, must be fully aware of the proper procedures for operation, and particularly disengagement, for the system as installed.

In addition to ensuring compliance with the autopilot manufacturer's maintenance requirements, all owners/operators should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the operation, function and procedures described in the Airplane Flight Manual Supplements. Ensure a full understanding of the methods of engagement and disengagement of the autopilot and trim systems.

Compare the descriptions and procedures contained in the Supplements to the actual installation in the airplane to ensure that the supplement accurately describes your installation. Test that all buttons, switches and circuit breakers function as described in the Supplements. If they do not function as described, have the system repaired by a qualified service agency. If field service advice or assistance is necessary, contact Beech Aircraft Corporation, Customer Support Department.

As stated in all AFM Supplements for autopilot systems and trim systems installed on Beech airplanes, the preflight check must be conducted before every flight. The preflight check assures not only that the systems and all of their features are operating properly, but also that the pilot, before flight, is familiar with the proper means of engagement and disengagement of the autopilot and trim system.



Autopilot Airplane Flight Manual Supplements caution against trying to override the autopilot system during flight without disengaging the autopilot because the autopilot will continue to trim the airplane and oppose the pilot's actions. This could result in a severely out of trim condition. This is a basic feature of all autopilots with electric trim follow-up.

Do not try to manually override the autopilot during flight.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, YOU CAN OVERPOWER THE AUTOPILOT TO CORRECT THE ATTITUDE, BUT THE AUTOPILOT AND ELECTRIC TRIM MUST THEN IMMEDIATELY BE DISENGAGED.**

It is often difficult to distinguish an autopilot malfunction from an electric trim system malfunction. The safest course is to deactivate both. Do not re-engage either system until after you have safely landed. Then have the systems checked by a qualified service facility prior to further flight.

Depending upon the installation on your airplane, the following additional methods may be available to disengage the autopilot or electric trim in the event that the autopilot or electric trim does not disengage utilizing the disengage methods specified in the Supplements.

**CAUTION**

Transient control forces may occur when the autopilot is disengaged.

1. Turn off the autopilot master switch, if installed.
2. Pull the autopilot and trim circuit breaker(s) or turn off the autopilot switch breaker, if installed.
3. Turn off the RADIO MASTER SWITCH, if installed, and

if the autopilot system and the trim system are wired through this switch.

**CAUTION**

Radios, including VHF COMM are also disconnected when the radio master switch is off.

4. Turn off the ELECTRIC MASTER SWITCH.

**WARNING**

Most electrically powered systems will be inoperative. Consult the AFM for further information.

5. Push the GA switch on throttle grip, if installed (depending upon the autopilot system).
6. Push TEST EACH FLT switch on the autopilot controller, if installed.

**NOTE**

After the autopilot is positively disengaged, it may be necessary to restore other electrical functions. Be sure when the master switches are turned on that the autopilot does not re-engage.

The above ways may or may not be available on your autopilot. It is essential that you read your airplane's AFM

SUPPLEMENT for your autopilot system and check each function and operation on your system.

The engagement of the autopilot must be done in accordance with the instructions and procedures contained in the AFM SUPPLEMENT.

Particular attention must be paid to the autopilot settings prior to engagement. If you attempt to engage the autopilot when the airplane is out of trim, a large attitude change may occur.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THE APPROVED AFM SUPPLEMENTS FOR YOUR SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BE FOLLOWED BEFORE ENGAGING THE AUTOPILOT.

### **FLUTTER**

Flutter is a phenomenon that can occur when an aerodynamic surface begins vibrating. The energy to sustain the vibration is derived from airflow over the surface. The amplitude of the vibration can (1) decrease, if airspeed is reduced; (2) remain constant, if airspeed is held constant and no failures occur; or (3) increase to the point of self-destruction, especially if airspeed is high and/or is allowed to increase. Flutter can lead to an in-flight break up of the airplane. Airplanes are designed so that flutter will not occur in the normal operating envelope of the airplane as long as the airplane is properly maintained. In the case of any airplane, decreasing the damping and stiffness of the structure or increasing the trailing edge weight of control surfaces will tend to cause flutter. If a combination of those factors is sufficient, flutter can occur within the normal operating envelope.

Owners and operators of airplanes have the primary responsibility for maintaining their airplanes. To fulfill that responsibility, it is imperative that all airplanes receive a thorough

preflight inspection. Improper tension on the control cables or any other loose condition in the flight control system can also cause or contribute to flutter. Pilots should pay particular attention to control surface attachment hardware including tab pushrod attachment during preflight inspection. Looseness of fixed surfaces or movement of control surfaces other than in the normal direction of travel should be rectified before flight. Further, owners should take their airplanes to mechanics who have access to current technical publications and prior experience in properly maintaining that make and model of airplane. The owner should make certain that control cable tension inspections are performed as outlined in the applicable Beech Inspection Guide. Worn control surface attachment hardware must be replaced. Any repainting or repair of a moveable control surface will require a verification of the control surface balance before the airplane is returned to service. Control surface drain holes must be open to prevent freezing of accumulated moisture, which could create an increased trailing-edge-heavy control surface and flutter.

If an excessive vibration, particularly in the control column and rudder pedals, is encountered in flight, this may be the onset of flutter and the procedure to follow is:

1. IMMEDIATELY REDUCE AIRSPEED (lower the landing gear, if necessary).
2. RESTRAIN THE CONTROLS OF THE AIRPLANE UNTIL THE VIBRATION CEASES.
3. FLY AT THE REDUCED AIRSPEED AND LAND AT THE NEAREST SUITABLE AIRPORT.
4. HAVE THE AIRPLANE INSPECTED FOR AIRFRAME DAMAGE, CONTROL SURFACE ATTACHING HARDWARE CONDITION/SECURITY, TRIM TAB FREE PLAY, PROPER CONTROL CABLE TENSION, AND CONTROL SURFACE BALANCE BY ANOTHER MECHANIC WHO IS FULLY QUALIFIED.



## **TURBULENT WEATHER**

A complete and current weather briefing is a requirement for a safe trip.

Updating of weather information en route is also essential. The wise pilot knows that weather conditions can change quickly, and treats weather forecasting as professional advice, rather than an absolute fact. He obtains all the advice he can, but stays alert to any sign or report of changing conditions.

Plan the flight to avoid areas of reported severe turbulence. It is not always possible to detect individual storm areas or find the in-between clear areas.

The National Weather Service classifies turbulence as follows:

<b>Class of Turbulence</b>	<b>Effect</b>
<b>Extreme</b>	Airplane is violently tossed about and is practically impossible to control. May cause structural damage.
<b>Severe</b>	Airplane may be momentarily out of control. Occupants are thrown violently against the belts and back into the seat. Unsecured objects are tossed about.
<b>Moderate</b>	Occupants require seat belts and occasionally are thrown against the belt. Unsecured objects move about.

**Light**

Occupants may be required to use seat belts, but objects in the airplane remain at rest.

Thunderstorms, squall lines and violent turbulence should be regarded as extremely dangerous and must be avoided. Hail and tornadic wind velocities can be encountered in thunderstorms that can destroy any airplane, just as tornadoes destroy nearly everything in their path on the ground.

Thunderstorms also pose the possibility of a lightning strike on an airplane. Any structure or equipment which shows evidence of a lightning strike, or of being subjected to a high current flow due to a strike, or is a suspected part of a lightning strike path through the airplane should be thoroughly inspected and any damage repaired prior to additional flight.

A roll cloud ahead of a squall line or thunderstorm is visible evidence of extreme turbulence; however, the absence of a roll cloud should not be interpreted as denoting that severe turbulence is not present.

Even though flight in severe turbulence must be avoided, flight in turbulent air may be encountered unexpectedly under certain conditions.

The following recommendations should be observed for airplane operation in turbulent air:

Flying through turbulent air presents two basic problems, the answer to both of which is proper airspeed. On one hand, if you maintain an excessive airspeed, you run the risk of structural damage or failure; on the other hand, if your airspeed is too low, you may stall.

If turbulence is encountered, reduce speed to the turbulent air penetration speed, if given, or to the maneuvering speed, which is listed in the Limitations section of the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual.

These speeds give the best assurance of avoiding excessive stress loads, and at the same time provide the proper margin against inadvertent stalls due to gusts.

Beware of overcontrolling in an attempt to correct for changes in attitude; applying control pressure abruptly will build up G-forces rapidly and could cause structural damage or even failure. You should watch particularly your angle of bank, making turns as wide and shallow as possible. Be equally cautious in applying forward or back pressure to keep the airplane level. Maintain straight and level attitude in either up or down drafts. Use trim sparingly to avoid being grossly out of trim as the vertical air columns change velocity and direction. If necessary to avoid excessive airspeeds, lower the landing gear.

### ***WIND SHEAR***

Wind shears are rapid, localized changes in wind direction, which can occur vertically as well as horizontally. Wind shear can be very dangerous to all airplanes, large and small, particularly on approach to landing when airspeeds are slow.

A horizontal wind shear is a sudden change in wind direction or speed that can, for example, transform a headwind into a tailwind, producing a sudden decrease in indicated airspeed because of the inertia of the airplane. A vertical wind shear, is a sudden updraft or downdraft. Microbursts are intense, highly localized severe downdrafts.

The prediction of wind shears is far from an exact science. Monitor your airspeed carefully when flying near storms, particularly on approach. Be mentally prepared to add power and go around at the first indication that a wind shear is being encountered.

## **FLIGHT IN ICING CONDITIONS**

Every pilot should be intimately acquainted with the FAA Approved National Weather Service definitions for ice intensity and accumulation which we have reprinted below:

### **Intensity**

### **Ice Accumulation**

#### **Trace**

Ice becomes perceptible. Rate of accumulation slightly greater than rate of sublimation. It is not hazardous even though deicing/anti-icing equipment is not utilized, unless encountered for an extended period of time (over 1 hour).

#### **Light**

The rate of accumulation may create a problem if flight is prolonged in this environment (over 1 hour). Occasional use of deicing/anti-icing equipment removes/prevents accumulation. It does not present a problem if the deicing/anti-icing equipment is used.

#### **Moderate**

The rate of accumulation is such that even short encounters become potentially hazardous and use of deicing/anti-icing equipment or diversion is necessary.

#### **Severe**

The rate of accumulation is such that deicing/anti-icing equipment fails to reduce or control the hazard. Immediate diversion is necessary.

It is no longer unusual to find deicing and anti-icing equipment on a wide range of airplane sizes and types. Since the capability of this equipment varies, it becomes the pilot's primary responsibility to understand limitations which restrict the use of his airplane in icing conditions and the conditions which may exceed the systems capacity.



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Pilots and airplane owners must carefully review the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual in order to ascertain the required operable equipment needed for flight in icing conditions. In addition, they must ascertain from the same source the limits of approval or certification of their airplane for flight in icing conditions, and plan the flight accordingly, if icing conditions are known or forecast along the route.

Every owner and pilot of an airplane should understand that it is not uncommon to find airplanes equipped with less than the full complement of available systems and equipment. For example, propellers and pitot tube may be protected, but the airplane may not have wing boots or tail boots. The reverse might be true. Windshield, pitot and airfoil surfaces might be protected, but the propellers might not be. Before undertaking any flight into areas where icing conditions might be expected, inspect the airplane and review the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual to be certain that you are supported by the full complement of required IFR and deicing/anti-icing equipment.

Remember that regardless of its combination of deicing/anti-icing equipment, any airplane not fully equipped and functional for IFR flight is not properly equipped for flight in icing conditions. An airplane which is not approved or certificated for flight in icing conditions, or which does not have all critical areas protected in the required manner by fully operational anti-icing equipment must not be exposed to icing encounters of any intensity. When icing is detected, the pilot of such an airplane must make an immediate diversion by flying out of the area of visible moisture or going to an altitude where icing is not encountered.

Some models of Beech airplanes were approved for flight in certain limited icing conditions under the FAA's Bureau of Flight Standards Release No. 434. Under this release, properly equipped airplanes are approved for flight in light to

moderate icing conditions only. Refer to Sections 2 and 4 of the above document for icing limitations. These airplanes are not approved for extended flight in moderate icing conditions or flights in any severe icing conditions. Flight in these conditions must be avoided.

Even airplanes fully equipped and certified for flight in the icing conditions described in Appendix C to FAR Part 25 must avoid flights into those conditions defined by the National Weather Service as "Severe". The National Weather Service definition of "Severe Icing" describes that conditions as: "the rate of accumulation is such that deicing/anti-icing equipment fails to reduce or control the hazard." No airplane equipped with any combination of deicing/anti-icing equipment can be expected to cope with such conditions. As competent pilots know, there appears to be no predictable limits for the severest weather conditions. For essentially the same reasons that airplanes, however designed or equipped for IFR flight, cannot be flown safely into conditions such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes or other phenomena likely to produce severe turbulence, airplanes equipped for flight in icing conditions cannot be expected to cope with "Severe" icing conditions as defined by the National Weather Service. The prudent pilot must remain alert to the possibility that icing conditions may become "severe" and that his equipment will not cope with them. At the first indication that such condition may have been encountered or may lie ahead, he should immediately react by selecting the most expeditious and safe course for diversion.

Every pilot of a properly fully-equipped Beech airplane who ventures into icing conditions must maintain the minimum speed (KIAS) for operation in icing conditions, which is set forth in the Normal Procedures section, and in the Limitations section, of his Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual. If a minimum speed for flight in icing conditions is not specified in the manual, the following minimum indicated airspeeds must be maintained:

All Baron and Travel Air Models - 130 KIAS

All other BEECHCRAFT twin-engine models - 140 KIAS

The pilot must remain aware of the fact that if he allows his airspeed to deteriorate below this minimum speed, he will increase the angle of attack of his airplane to the point where ice may build up on the under side of the wings aft of the area protected by the boots.

The fact or extent of ice build-up in unprotected areas will not be directly observable from the cockpit. Due to distortion of the wing airfoil, increased drag and reduced lift, stalling speeds will increase as ice accumulates on the airplane. For the same reasons, stall warning devices are not accurate and cannot be relied upon in icing conditions.

Even though the pilot maintains the prescribed minimum speeds for operating in icing conditions, ice is still likely to build up on the unprotected areas (the fuselage and unprotected wing leading edge inboard of the engine nacelle). Under some atmospheric conditions, it may even build up aft of the boots despite the maintenance of the prescribed minimum speed. The effect of ice accumulation on any unprotected surface is aggravated by length of exposure to the icing conditions. Ice buildup on unprotected surfaces will increase drag, add weight, reduce lift, and generally, adversely affect the aerodynamic characteristics and performance of the airplane. It can progress to the point where the airplane is no longer capable of flying. Therefore, the pilot operating even a fully-equipped airplane in sustained icing conditions must remain sensitive to any indication, such as observed ice accumulation, loss of airspeed, the need for increased power, reduced rate of climb, or sluggish response, that ice is accumulating on unprotected surfaces and that continued flight in these conditions is extremely hazardous, regardless of the performance of the deicing/anti-icing equipment.



Since flight in icing conditions is not an everyday occurrence, it is important that pilots maintain a proper proficiency and awareness of the operating procedures necessary for safe operation of the airplane and that the airplane is in a condition for safe operation.

Ensure moisture drains in the airplane structure are maintained open as specified in the Aircraft Maintenance Manual, so that moisture will not collect and cause freezing in the control cable area. Also, control surface tab hinges should be maintained and lubricated as specified in the Aircraft Maintenance Manual.

In icing conditions the autopilot should be disengaged at an altitude sufficient to permit the pilot to gain the feel of the airplane prior to landing. In no case should this be less than the minimum altitude specified in the Autopilot Airplane Flight Manual Supplement.

Observe the procedures set forth in your Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual during operation in icing conditions.

Activate your deice and anti-icing systems before entering an area of moisture where you are likely to go through a freezing level, to make sure all necessary equipment is operative.

Rapid cycling of deice boots or cycling before at least one-half inch (1/2") of ice has accumulated (measured in the chordwise direction or forward from the leading edge), may cause the ice to grow outside the contour of the inflated boots and prevent ice removal.

For any owner or pilot whose use pattern for an airplane exposes it to icing encounters, the following references are required reading for safe flying:

- The airplane's Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA



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Approved Airplane Flight Manual, especially the sections on Normal Procedures, Emergency Procedures, Abnormal Procedures, Systems, and Safety Information.

- FAA Advisory Circulars 91-51 Airplane Deice and Anti-ice Systems
- FAA Advisory Circulars 135-9 - Icing Limitations
- Weather Flying by Robert N. Buck.

Finally, the most important ingredients to safe flight in icing conditions - regardless of the airplane or the combination of deicing/anti-icing equipment - are a complete and current weather briefing, sound pilot judgement, close attention to the rate and type of ice accumulations, and the knowledge that "severe icing" as defined by the National Weather Service is beyond the capability of modern airplanes and immediate diversion must be made. It is the inexperienced or uneducated pilot who presses on "regardless", hoping that steadily worsening conditions will improve, only to find himself flying an airplane which has become so loaded with ice that he can no longer maintain altitude. At this point he has lost most, if not all, of his safety options, including perhaps a 180 degree turn to return along the course already traveled.

The responsible and well-informed pilot recognizes the limitations of weather conditions, his airplane and its systems, and reacts promptly.

### **WEATHER RADAR**

Airborne weather avoidance radar is, as its name implies, for avoiding severe weather--not for penetrating it. Whether to fly into an area of radar echoes depends on echo intensity and shape, spacing between the echoes, and the capabilities of you and your airplane. Remember that weather radar detects only precipitation drops. Therefore, the radar scope provides no assurance of avoiding turbulence. The radar scope also does not provide assurance of avoiding

instrument weather from clouds and fog. Your scope may be clear between intense echoes; this clear area does not necessarily mean you can fly between the storms and maintain visual sighting of them.

Thunderstorms build and dissipate rapidly. Therefore, do not attempt to plan a course between echoes using ground based radar. The best use of ground radar information is to isolate general areas and coverage of echoes. You must avoid individual storms from in-flight observations either by visual sighting or by airborne radar. It is better to avoid the whole thunderstorm area than to detour around individual storms unless they are scattered.

Remember that while hail always gives a radar echo, it may fall several miles from the nearest visible cloud and hazardous turbulence may extend to as much as 20 miles from the echo edge. The intensity of the radar echo from hail varies with the size and nature of the hailstone. A hailstone with a wet surface gives a strong radar return while a dry hailstone gives a relatively weak return. Avoid intense or extreme level echoes by at least 20 miles; that is, such echoes should be separated by at least 40 miles before you fly between them. With weaker echoes you can reduce the distance by which you avoid them.

Above all, remember this: never regard any thunderstorm lightly. Even when radar observers report the echoes are of light intensity, avoiding thunderstorms is the best policy. The following are some do's and don'ts of thunderstorm avoidance:

1. Don't land or take off in the face of an approaching thunderstorm. A sudden gust front of low level turbulence could cause loss of control.
2. Don't attempt to fly under a thunderstorm even if you can see through to the other side. Turbulence and wind shear under the storm could be disastrous.

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3. Don't fly without airborne radar into a cloud mass containing scattered embedded thunderstorms. Embedded thunderstorms usually can not be visually circumnavigated.
4. Don't trust visual appearance to be a reliable indicator of the turbulence inside a thunderstorm.
5. Do avoid by at least 20 miles any thunderstorm identified as severe or giving an intense radar echo. This is especially true under the anvil of a large cumulonimbus.
6. Do circumnavigate the entire area if the area has 6/10 or greater thunderstorm coverage.
7. Do remember that vivid and frequent lightning indicates the probability of a severe thunderstorm.
8. Do regard as extremely hazardous any thunderstorm with tops 35,000 feet or higher, whether the top is visually sighted or determined by radar.

If you cannot avoid penetrating a thunderstorm, the following are some do's BEFORE entering the storm:

9. Tighten your safety belt, put on your shoulder harness, and secure all loose objects.
10. Plan and hold your course to take you through the storm in minimum time.
11. To avoid the most critical icing, establish a penetration altitude below the freezing level or above the level of -15°C.
12. Verify that pitot heat is on and turn on carburetor heat or engine anti-ice. Icing can be rapid at any altitude and cause almost instantaneous power failure and/or loss of airspeed indication.



## **MOUNTAIN FLYING**

Pilots flying in mountainous areas should inform themselves of all aspects of mountain flying, including the effects of topographic features on weather conditions. Many good articles have been published, and a synopsis of mountain flying operations is included in the FAA Airman's Information Manual, Part 1.

Avoid flight at low altitudes over mountainous terrain, particularly near the lee slopes. If the wind velocity near the level of the ridge is in excess of 25 knots and approximately perpendicular to the ridge, mountain wave conditions are likely over and near the lee slopes. If the wind velocity at the level of the ridge exceeds 50 knots, a strong mountain wave is probable with extreme up and down drafts and severe turbulence. The worst turbulence will be encountered in and below the rotor zone, which is usually 8 to 10 miles downwind from the ridge. This zone is sometimes characterized by the presence of "roll clouds" if sufficient moisture is present; altocumulus standing lenticular clouds are also visible signs that a mountain wave exists, but their presence is likewise dependent on moisture. Mountain wave turbulence can, of course, occur in dry air and the absence of such clouds should not be taken as assurance that mountain wave turbulence will not be encountered. A mountain wave downdraft may exceed the climb capability of your airplane. Avoid mountain wave downdrafts.

## **VFR - LOW CEILINGS**

If you are not instrument rated, do not attempt "VFR on Top" or "Special VFR" flight or clearances. Being caught above a solid cloud layer when an emergency descent is required (or at destination) is an extremely hazardous position for the VFR pilot. Accepting a clearance out of airport control zones with no minimum ceiling and one-mile visibility as permitted with "Special VFR" is a foolish practice for the VFR pilot.



Avoid areas of low ceilings and restricted visibility unless you are instrument rated and proficient and have an instrument equipped airplane. Then proceed with caution and with planned alternates.

### ***VFR AT NIGHT***

When flying VFR at night, in addition to the altitude appropriate for the direction of flight, pilots should maintain a safe minimum altitude as dictated by terrain, obstacles such as TV towers, or communities in the area flown. This is especially true in mountainous terrain, where there is usually very little ground reference. Minimum clearance is 2,000 feet above the highest obstacle en route. Do not depend on your ability to see obstacles in time to miss them. Flight on dark nights over sparsely populated country can be the same as IFR, and must be avoided by inexperienced or non-IFR rated pilots.

### ***VERTIGO - DISORIENTATION***

Disorientation can occur in a variety of ways. During flight, inner ear balancing mechanisms are subjected to varied forces not normally experienced on the ground. This, combined with loss of outside visual reference, can cause vertigo. False interpretations (illusions) result, and may confuse the pilot's conception of the attitude and position of his airplane.

Under VFR conditions, the visual sense, using the horizon as a reference, can override the illusions. Under low visibility conditions (night, fog, clouds, haze, etc.) the illusions predominate. Only through awareness of these illusions, and proficiency in instrument flight procedures, can an airplane be operated safely in a low visibility environment.

Flying in fog, dense haze or dust, cloud banks, or very low visibility, with strobe lights or rotating beacons turned on can

contribute to vertigo. They should be turned off in these conditions, particularly at night.

All pilot's should check the weather and use good judgment in planning flights. The VFR pilot should use extra caution in avoiding low visibility conditions.

Motion sickness often precedes or accompanies disorientation and may further jeopardize the flight.

Disorientation in low visibility conditions is not limited to VFR pilots. Although IFR pilots are trained to look at their instruments to gain an artificial visual reference as a replacement for the loss of a visual horizon, they do not always do so. This can happen when the pilot's physical condition will not permit him to concentrate on his instruments; when the pilot is not proficient in flying instrument conditions in the airplane he is flying; or, when the pilot's work load of flying by reference to his instruments is augmented by such factors as turbulence. Even an instrument rated pilot encountering instrument conditions, intentional or unintentional, should ask himself whether or not he is sufficiently alert and proficient in the airplane he is flying, to fly under low visibility conditions and in the turbulence anticipated or encountered.

If any doubt exists, the flight should not be made or it should be discontinued as soon as possible.

The result of vertigo is loss of control of the airplane. If the loss of control is sustained, it will result in an excessive speed accident. Excessive speed accidents occur in one of two manners, either as an inflight airframe separation or as a high speed ground impact; and they are fatal accidents in either case. All airplanes are subject to this form of accident.

For years, Beech Pilot's Operating Handbooks and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manuals have contained instructions that the landing gear should be extended in any circumstance in which the pilot encounters IFR conditions

which approach the limits of his capability or his ratings. Lowering the gear in IFR conditions or flight into heavy or severe turbulence, tends to stabilize the airplane, assists in maintaining proper airspeed, and will substantially reduce the possibility of reaching excessive airspeeds with catastrophic consequences, even where loss of control is experienced.

Excessive speed accidents occur at airspeeds greatly in excess of two operating limitations which are specified in the manuals: Maximum maneuvering speed and the "red line" or maximum operating speed. Such speed limits are set to protect the structure of an airplane. For example, flight controls are designed to be used to their fullest extent only below the airplane's maximum maneuvering speed. As a result, the control surfaces should never be suddenly or fully deflected above maximum maneuvering speed. Turbulence penetration should not be performed above that speed. The accidents we are discussing here occur at airspeeds greatly in excess of these limitations. No airplane should ever be flown beyond its FAA approved operating limitations.

### ***FLIGHT OF MULTI-ENGINE AIRPLANES WITH ONE ENGINE INOPERATIVE***

The major difference between flying a twin-engine and single-engine airplane is knowing how to manage the flight if one engine loses power for any reason. Safe flight with one engine inoperative requires an understanding of the basic aerodynamics involved - as well as proficiency in engine out procedures.

Loss of power from one engine affects both climb performance and controllability of twin-engine airplanes. Climb performance depends on an excess of power over that required for level flight. Loss of power from one engine obviously represents a 50% loss of horsepower but, in virtually all twin-engine airplanes, climb performance is reduced by at least 80%. A study of the charts in your Pilot's Operating



Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual will confirm this fact. Single-engine climb performance depends on four factors:

<b>Airspeed</b>	too little, or too much, will decrease climb performance
<b>Drag</b>	gear, flaps, cowl flaps, prop, and speed
<b>Power</b>	amount available in excess of that needed for level flight
<b>Weight</b>	passengers, baggage, and fuel load greatly affect climb performance

Loss of power on one engine creates yaw due to asymmetric thrust. Yaw forces must be balanced with the rudder. Loss of power on one engine also reduces airflow over the wing causing a roll toward the "dead" engine which must be balanced with the aileron. The net result of these forces cause the airplane to sideslip slightly toward the dead engine. This sideslip may be balanced by banking slightly (up to 5°) into the operating engine.

**CAUTION**

In the event of an engine failure with the main tanks less than one-quarter full, corrective action must be taken immediately to prevent large yaw angles from developing and causing stoppage of the remaining engine.

Airspeed is the key to safe single engine operations. For most twin-engine airplanes there is:



Symbol	Description
V <sub>MCA</sub>	Airspeed below which directional control cannot be maintained
V <sub>SSE</sub>	Airspeed below which an intentional engine cut should never be made
V <sub>YSE</sub>	Airspeed that will give the best single engine rate-of-climb (or the slowest loss of altitude)
V <sub>XSE</sub>	Airspeed that will give the steepest angle-of-climb with one engine out

### AIR MINIMUM CONTROL SPEED (V<sub>MCA</sub>)

V<sub>MCA</sub> is designated by the red radial on the airspeed indicator and indicates the minimum control speed, airborne at sea level. V<sub>MCA</sub> is determined by FAA regulations as the minimum airspeed at which it is possible to recover directional control of the airplane within 20 degrees heading change, and thereafter maintain straight flight, with not more than 5 degrees of bank if one engine fails suddenly with:

- Takeoff power on both engines
- Rearmost allowable center of gravity
- Flaps in takeoff position
- Propeller windmilling in takeoff pitch configuration

However, sudden engine failures rarely occur with all factors listed above, and therefore, the actual V<sub>MCA</sub> in any particular situation may be a little slower than the red radial on the airspeed indicator. Most airplanes with an inoperative engine will not maintain level flight at maximum power at speeds at or near V<sub>MCA</sub>. Consequently, it is not advisable to fly at speeds approaching V<sub>MCA</sub>, except in training situations or during flight tests. Adhering to the practice of never flying at or below the published V<sub>MCA</sub> speed for your airplane does not eliminate loss of directional control as a problem in the

event of an engine failure. The pilot must be prepared to use assertive control input to maintain airplane control following an engine failure.

***INTENTIONAL ONE-ENGINE INOPERATIVE  
SPEED ( $V_{SSE}$ )***

$V_{SSE}$  is specified by the airplane manufacturer and is the minimum speed at which to perform intentional engine cuts. Use of  $V_{SSE}$  is intended to reduce the accident potential from loss of control after engine cuts at or near minimum control speed.  $V_{MCA}$  demonstrations are necessary in training but should only be made at safe altitude above the terrain and with power reduction on one engine made at or above  $V_{SSE}$ .

***ONE-ENGINE-INOPERATIVE BEST  
RATE-OF-CLIMB SPEED ( $V_{YSE}$ )***

$V_{YSE}$  is designated by the blue radial on the airspeed indicator.  $V_{YSE}$  delivers the greatest gain in altitude in the shortest possible time, and is based on the following criteria:

- Critical engine inoperative, and its propeller in the minimum drag position.
- Operating engine set at not more than the maximum continuous power.
- Landing gear retracted.
- Wing flaps up.
- Cowl flaps as required for engine cooling.
- Airplanes flown at recommended bank angle (up to 5° into operating engine).

Drag caused by a windmilling propeller, extending landing gear, or flaps in the landing position, will severely degrade or destroy single engine climb performance. Since climb

performance varies widely with type of airplane, weight, temperature, altitude, and airplane configuration, the climb gradient (altitude gain or loss per mile) may be marginal - or even negative - under some conditions. Study the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual for your airplane and know what performance to expect with one engine out.

### ***ONE-ENGINE-INOPERATIVE BEST ANGLE-OF-CLIMB SPEED ( $V_{XSE}$ )***

$V_{XSE}$  is used only to clear obstructions during initial climb-out as it gives the greatest altitude gain per unit of horizontal distance. It provides less engine cooling and requires more rudder control input than  $V_{YSE}$ .

### ***SINGLE ENGINE SERVICE CEILING***

The single engine service ceiling is the maximum altitude at which an airplane will climb at a rate of at least 50 feet per minute in smooth air, with one engine inoperative.

The single engine service ceiling chart should be used during flight planning to determine whether the airplane, as loaded, can maintain the Minimum En Route Altitude (MEA) if IFR, or terrain clearance if VFR, following an engine failure.

### ***BASIC SINGLE ENGINE PROCEDURES***

Know and follow, to the letter, the single-engine emergency procedures specified in your Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual for your specific make and model airplane. However, the basic fundamentals of all the procedures are as follows:

1. Maintain airplane control and airspeed at all times.  
**THIS IS CARDINAL RULE NUMBER ONE.**
2. Usually, apply maximum power to the operating engine.



However, if the engine failure occurs at a speed below  $V_{MCA}$ , during cruise or in a steep turn, you may elect to use only enough power to maintain a safe speed and altitude. If the failure occurs on final approach, use power only as necessary to complete the landing.

3. Reduce drag to an absolute minimum.
4. Secure the failed engine and related sub-systems.

The first three steps should be done promptly and from memory. The check list should then be consulted to be sure that the inoperative engine is secured properly and that the appropriate switches are placed in the correct position. The airplane must be banked about  $5^\circ$  into the operating engine, with the "slip/skid" ball slightly out of center toward the operating engine, to achieve rated performance.

**Another note of caution:** Be sure to identify the dead engine, positively, before securing it. Remember: First identify the suspected engine (i.e., "Dead foot means dead engine"), second, verify with cautious throttle movement, then secure.

### **ENGINE FAILURE ON TAKEOFF**

If an engine fails before attaining lift-off speed or below  $V_{MCA}$ , the only proper action is to discontinue the takeoff. If the engine fails after lift-off with the landing gear still down, the takeoff should still be discontinued if touchdown and roll-out on the remaining runway is still possible.

If you do find yourself in a position of not being able to climb, it is much better to reduce the power on the good engine and land straight ahead than try to force a climb and lose control.

Your Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual contains charts that are used in calculating the runway length required to stop if the engine fails

before reaching lift-off speed and also has charts showing the single-engine performance after lift-off.

Study your charts carefully. No airplane is capable of climbing out on one engine under all weight, pressure altitude, and temperature conditions. Know, before you take the actual runway, whether you can maintain control and climb out if you lose an engine while the gear is still down. It may be necessary to off-load some weight, or wait for more favorable temperatures.

### *WHEN TO FLY $V_X$ , $V_Y$ , $V_{XSE}$ AND $V_{YSE}$*

During normal two-engine operations, always fly  $V_Y$  ( $V_X$  if necessary for obstacle clearance) on initial climb out. Then, accelerate to your cruise climb airspeed, which may be  $V_Y$  plus 10 or 15 knots after you have obtained a safe altitude. Use of cruise climb airspeed will give you better engine cooling, increased inflight visibility and better fuel economy. However, at first indication of an engine failure during climb out, or while on approach, establish  $V_{YSE}$  or  $V_{XSE}$ , whichever is appropriate. (Consult your Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual for specifics.)

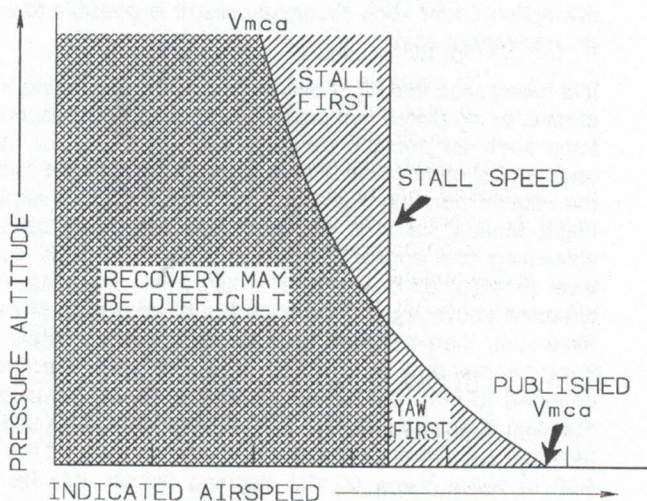
### *STALLS, SLOW FLIGHT AND TRAINING*

The stall warning system must be kept operational at all times and must not be deactivated by interruption of circuits, circuit breakers, or fuses. Compliance with this requirement is especially important in all high performance multi-engine airplanes during engine-out practice or stall demonstrations, because the stall speed is critical in all low speed operations of high-performance airplanes.

Training should be accomplished under the supervision of a qualified instructor-pilot, with careful reference to the applicable sections of the FAA Practical Test Standards and FAA Pilot Transition Courses for Complex Single Engine and

Light Twin Engine Airplanes (AC61-9B). In particular, observe carefully the warnings in the Practical Test Standards.

The single-engine stall speed of a twin-engine airplane is generally slightly below the power off (engines idle) stall speed, for a given weight condition. Single-engine stalls should not be conducted in multi-engine airplanes by other than qualified engineering test pilots.



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STALL SPEED AND  $V_{mca}$  FOR AIRCRAFT WITH NORMALLY ASPIRATED ENGINES.

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Engine-out minimum control speed generally decreases with altitude, while the single engine stall speed remains approximately constant for normally aspirated engines. No such demonstration should be attempted when the altitude and temperature are such that the engine-out minimum control



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speed is known, or discovered to be, close to the stalling speed. Loss of directional or lateral control, just as a stall occurs, is potentially hazardous.

$V_{SSE}$ , the airspeed below which an engine should not be intentionally rendered inoperative for practice purposes, was established because of the apparent practice of some pilots, instructors, and examiners, of intentionally rendering an engine inoperative at a time when the airplane is being operated at a speed close to, or below the power-idle stall speed. Unless the pilot takes immediate and proper corrective action under such circumstances, it is possible to enter an inadvertent spin.

It is recognized that flight below  $V_{SSE}$  with one engine inoperative, or simulated inoperative, may be required for conditions such as practice demonstration of  $V_{MCA}$  for multi-engine pilot certification. Refer to the procedure set forth in the Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual for your airplane. This procedure calls for simulating one engine inoperative by reducing the power level (throttle) on one engine to idle while operating at an airspeed above  $V_{SSE}$ . Power on the other engine is set at maximum, then airspeed is reduced at approximately one knot per second until either  $V_{MCA}$  or stall warning is obtained. During this transition, rudder should be used to maintain directional control, and ailerons should be used to maintain a 5° bank toward the operative engine. At the first sign of either  $V_{MCA}$  or stall warning (which may be evidenced by inability to maintain longitudinal, lateral or directional control, aerodynamic stall buffet, or stall warning horn sound), recovery must be initiated immediately by reducing power to idle on operative engine and lowering the nose to regain  $V_{SSE}$ . Resume normal flight. This entire procedure should be used at a safe altitude of at least 5,000 feet above the ground in clear air only.

If stall warning is detected prior to the first sign of  $V_{MCA}$ , an engine-out minimum control speed demonstration cannot be

accomplished under the existing gross weight conditions and should not be attempted.

### *SPINS*

A major cause of fatal accidents in general aviation airplanes is a spin. Stall demonstrations and practice are a means for a pilot to acquire the skills to recognize when a stall is about to occur and to recover as soon as the first signs of a stall are evident.

**If a stall does not occur - A spin cannot occur.** It is important to remember however, that a stall can occur in any flight attitude, at any airspeed, if controls are misused.

Unless your airplane has been specifically certificated in the aerobatic category and specifically tested for spin recovery characteristics, it is placarded against intentional spins. The pilot of an airplane placarded against intentional spins should assume that the airplane may become uncontrollable in a spin, since its performance characteristics beyond certain limits specified in the FAA regulations may not have been tested and are unknown. This is why airplanes are placarded against intentional spins, and this is why stall avoidance is your protection against an inadvertent spin.

Pilots are taught that intentional spins are entered by deliberately inducing a yawing moment with the controls as the airplane is stalled. Inadvertent spins result from the same combination - stall plus yaw. That is why it is important to use coordinated controls and to recover at the first indication of a stall when practicing stalls.

In any twin engine airplane, fundamental aerodynamics dictate that if the airplane is allowed to become fully stalled while one engine is providing lift-producing thrust, the yawing moment which can induce a spin will be present. Consequently, it is important to immediately reduce power on the operating engine, lower the nose to reduce the angle of attack, and increase the airspeed to recover from the stall.

In any twin engine airplane, if application of stall recovery controls is delayed, a rapid rolling and yawing motion may develop, even against full aileron and rudder, resulting in the airplane becoming inverted during the onset of a spinning motion. Once the airplane has been permitted to progress beyond the stall and is allowed to reach the rapid rolling and yawing condition, the pilot must then immediately initiate the generally accepted spin recovery procedure for multi-engine airplanes, which is as follows:

Immediately move the control column full forward, apply full rudder opposite to the direction of the spin and reduce power on both engines to idle. These three actions should be done as near simultaneously as possible; then continue to hold this control position until rotation stops, then neutralize all controls and execute a smooth pullout. Ailerons should be neutral during recovery. **THE LONGER THE PILOT DELAYS BEFORE TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION, THE MORE DIFFICULT RECOVERY WILL BECOME.**

Always remember that extra alertness and pilot techniques are required for slow flight maneuvers, including the practice or demonstration of stalls or  $V_{MCA}$ . In addition to the foregoing mandatory procedure, always:

- Be certain that the center of gravity of the airplane is as far forward as possible. Forward C.G. aids stall recovery, spin avoidance and spin recovery. An aft C.G. can create a tendency for a spin to stabilize, which delays recovery.
- Whenever a student pilot will be required to practice slow flight or single-engine maneuvers, be certain that the qualified instructor pilot has a full set of operable controls available. FAA regulations prohibit flight instruction without full dual controls.
- Conduct any maneuvers which could possibly result in a spin at altitudes in excess of five thousand (5,000) feet above ground level in clear air only.



- Remember that an airplane, at or near traffic pattern and approach altitudes, cannot recover from a spin, or perhaps even a stall, before impact with the ground. For twin engine airplanes, when descending to traffic altitude and during pattern entry and all other flight operations, maintain speed no lower than  $V_{SSE}$ . On final final approach maintain at least the airspeed shown in the flight manual. Should a go-around be required, do not apply more power than necessary until the airplane has accelerated to  $V_{SSE}$ . Recognize that under some conditions of weight, density altitude, and airplane configuration, a twin engine airplane cannot climb or accelerate on a single engine. Hence a single engine go-around is impossible and the airplane is committed to a landing. Plan your approach accordingly.
- Remember that if an airplane flown under instrument conditions is permitted to stall or enter a spin, the pilot, without reference to the horizon, is certain to become disoriented. He may be unable to recognize a stall, spin entry, or the spin condition and he may be unable to determine even the direction of the rotation.
- Finally, never forget that stall avoidance is your best protection against an inadvertent spin. **MAINTAIN YOUR AIRSPEED.**

### **DESCENT**

In twin engine piston-powered airplanes, supercharged or normally aspirated, it is necessary to avoid prolonged descents with low power, as this produces two problems: (1) excessively cool cylinder head temperatures which cause premature engine wear, and (2) excessively rich mixtures due to idle enrichment (and altitude) which causes soot and lead deposits on the spark plugs (fouling). The second of these is the more serious consideration; the engine may not respond to the throttle when it is desired to discontinue the descent. Both problems are amenable to one solution: maintain adequate power to keep cylinder head temperatures in

the "green" range during descent, and lean to best power mixture (that is, progressively enrich the mixture from cruise only slightly as altitude decreases). This procedure will lengthen the descent, of course, and requires some advance planning. If it is necessary to make a prolonged descent at or near idle, as in practicing forced landings, at least avoid the problem of fouled spark plugs by frequently advancing the throttle until the engine runs smoothly, and maintain an appropriate mixture setting with altitude. (Refer to pre-landing check list.)

### ***VORTICES - WAKE TURBULENCE***

Every airplane generates wakes of turbulence while in flight. Part of this is from the propeller or jet engine, and part from the wing tip vortices. The larger and heavier the airplane, the more pronounced and turbulent the wakes will be. Wing tip vortices from large, heavy airplanes are very severe at close range, degenerating with time, wind and distance. These are rolling in nature, from each wing tip. In tests, vortex velocities of 133 knots have been recorded. Encountering the rolling effect of wing tip vortices within two minutes after passage of large airplanes is most hazardous to light airplanes. This roll effect can exceed the maximum counter-roll obtainable in a light airplane. The turbulent areas may remain for as long as three minutes or more, depending on wind conditions, and may extend several miles behind the airplane. Plan to fly slightly above and to the windward side of other airplanes. Because of the wide variety of conditions that can be encountered, there is no set rule to follow to avoid wake turbulence in all situations. However, the Airman's Information Manual, and to a greater extent Advisory Circular 90-23, Aircraft Wake Turbulence, provide a thorough discussion of the factors you should be aware of when wake turbulence may be encountered.

## **TAKEOFF AND LANDING CONDITIONS**

When taking off on runways covered with water or freezing slush, the landing gear should remain extended for approximately ten seconds longer than normal, allowing the wheels to spin and dissipate the freezing moisture. The landing gear should then be cycled up, then down, wait approximately five seconds and then retracted again. Caution must be exercised to insure that the entire operation is performed below Maximum Landing Gear Operating Airspeed.

Use caution when landing on runways that are covered by water or slush which cause hydroplaning (aquaplaning), a phenomenon that renders braking and steering ineffective because of the lack of sufficient surface friction. Snow and ice covered runways are also hazardous. The pilot should also be alert to the possibility of the brakes freezing.

Use caution when taking off or landing during gusty wind conditions. Also be aware of the special wind conditions caused by buildings or other obstructions located near the runway.

## **MEDICAL FACTS FOR PILOTS**

### **GENERAL**

When the pilot enters the airplane, he becomes an integral part of the man-machine system. He is just as essential to a successful flight as the control surfaces. To ignore the pilot in preflight planning would be as senseless as failing to inspect the integrity of the control surfaces or any other vital part of the machine. The pilot has the responsibility for determining his reliability prior to entering the airplane for flight. When piloting an airplane, an individual should be free of conditions which are harmful to alertness, ability to make correct decisions, and rapid reaction time.



## **FATIGUE**

Fatigue generally slows reaction time and causes errors due to inattention. In addition to the most common cause of fatigue; insufficient rest and loss of sleep, the pressures of business, financial worries, and family problems can be important contributing factors. If you are tired, don't fly.

## **HYPOXIA**

Hypoxia, in simple terms, is a lack of sufficient oxygen to keep the brain and other body tissues functioning properly. There is a wide individual variation in susceptibility to hypoxia. In addition to progressively insufficient oxygen at higher altitudes, anything interfering with the blood's ability to carry oxygen can contribute to hypoxia (anemias, carbon monoxide, and certain drugs). Also, alcohol and various drugs decrease the brain's tolerance to hypoxia.

Your body has no built-in alarm system to let you know when you are not getting enough oxygen. It is impossible to predict when or where hypoxia will occur during a given flight, or how it will manifest itself. Some of the common symptoms of hypoxia are increased breathing rate, a light-headed or dizzy sensation, tingling or warm sensation, sweating, reduced visual field, sleepiness, blue coloring of skin, fingernails, and lips, and behavior changes. A particularly dangerous feature of hypoxia is an increased sense of well-being, called euphoria. It obscures a person's ability and desire to be critical of himself, slows reaction time, and impairs thinking ability. Consequently, a hypoxic individual commonly believes things are getting progressively better while he nears total collapse.

The symptoms are slow but progressive, insidious in onset, and are most marked at altitudes starting above ten thousand feet. Night vision, however, can be impaired starting at an altitude of 5,000 feet. Persons who have recently overindulged in alcohol, who are moderate to heavy smokers, or

who take certain drugs, may be more susceptible to hypoxia. Susceptibility may also vary in the same individual from day to day or even morning to evening. Use oxygen on flights above 10,000 feet and at any time when symptoms appear.

Depending upon altitude, a hypoxic individual has a limited time to make decisions and perform useful acts, even though he may remain conscious for a longer period. If pressurization equipment fails at certain altitudes the pilot and passengers have only a certain amount of time to get an oxygen mask on before they exceed their time of useful consciousness. The time of useful consciousness is approximately 3-5 minutes at 25,000 feet of altitude for the average individual and diminishes markedly as altitude increases. At 30,000 feet altitude, for example, the time of useful consciousness is approximately 1-2 minutes. Therefore, in the event of depressurization, oxygen masks should be used immediately.

Should symptoms occur that cannot definitely be identified as either hypoxia or hyperventilation, try three or four deep breaths of oxygen. The symptoms should improve markedly if the condition was hypoxia (recovery from hypoxia is rapid).

Pilots who fly to altitudes that require or may require the use of supplemental oxygen should be thoroughly familiar with the operation of the airplane oxygen systems. A preflight inspection of the system should be performed, including proper fit of the mask. The passengers should be briefed on the proper use of their oxygen system before flight.

Pilots who wear beards should be careful to ensure that their beard is carefully trimmed so that it will not interfere with proper sealing of the oxygen masks. If you wear a beard or moustache, test the fit of your oxygen mask on the ground for proper sealing. Studies conducted by the military and oxygen equipment manufacturers conclude that oxygen masks do not seal over beards or heavy facial hair.

Federal Aviation Regulations related to the use of supplemental oxygen by flight crew and passengers must be adhered to if flight to higher altitudes is to be accomplished safely. Passengers with significant circulatory or lung disease may need to use supplemental oxygen at lower altitudes than specified by these regulations.

Pilots of pressurized airplanes should receive physiological training with emphasis on hypoxia and the use of oxygen and oxygen systems. Pilots of airplanes with pressure demand oxygen systems should undergo training, experience altitude chamber decompression, and be familiar with pressure breathing before flying at high altitude. This training is available throughout the United States at nominal cost. Information regarding this training may be obtained by request from the Chief, Civil Aeromedical Institute, Attention: Aeromedical Education Branch, AAC-140, Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, P. O. Box 25082, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

### ***HYPERVENTILATION***

Hyperventilation, or overbreathing, is a disturbance of respiration that may occur in individuals as a result of emotional tension or anxiety. Under conditions of emotional stress, fright, or pain, breathing rate may increase, causing increased lung ventilation, although the carbon dioxide output of the body cells does not increase. As a result, carbon dioxide is "washed out" of the blood. The most common symptoms of hyperventilation are: dizziness, nausea, sleepiness, and finally, unconsciousness. If the symptoms persist discontinue use of oxygen and consciously slow your breathing rate until symptoms clear, and then resume normal breathing rate. Normal breathing can be aided by talking aloud.



## **ALCOHOL**

Common sense and scientific evidence dictate that you must not fly as a crew member while under the influence of alcohol. Alcohol, even in small amounts, produces (among other things):

- A dulling of critical judgement.
- A decreased sense of responsibility.
- Diminished skill reactions and coordination.
- Decreased speed and strength of muscular reflexes (even after one ounce of alcohol).
- Decreases in efficiency of eye movements during reading (after one ounce of alcohol).
- Increased frequency of errors (after one ounce of alcohol).
- Constriction of visual fields.
- Decreased ability to see under dim illuminations.
- Loss of efficiency of sense of touch.
- Decrease of memory and reasoning ability.
- Increased susceptibility to fatigue and decreased attention span.
- Decreased relevance of response.
- Increased self confidence with decreased insight into immediate capabilities.

Tests have shown that pilots commit major errors of judgment and procedure at blood alcohol levels substantially less than the minimum legal levels of intoxication for most states. These tests further show a continuation of impairment from alcohol up to as many as 14 hours after consumption, with no appreciable diminution of impairment. The body metabolizes ingested alcohol at a rate of about one-third of an ounce per hour. Even after the body completely

destroys a moderate amount of alcohol, a pilot can still be severely impaired for many hours by hangover. The effects of alcohol on the body are magnified at altitudes, as 2 oz. of alcohol at 18,000 feet produce the same adverse effects as 6 oz. at sea level.

Federal Aviation Regulations have been amended to reflect the FAA's growing concern with the effects of alcohol impairment. FAR 91 states:

**"Alcohol or drugs.**

(a) No person may act or attempt to act as a crew-member of a civil aircraft -

(1) Within 8 hours after the consumption of any alcoholic beverage;

(2) While under the influence of alcohol;

(3) While using any drug that affects the person's faculties in any way contrary to safety; or

(4) While having .04 percent by weight or more alcohol in the blood.

(b) Except in an emergency, no pilot of a civil aircraft may allow a person who appears to be intoxicated or who demonstrates by manner or physical indications that the individual is under the influence of drugs (except a medical patient under proper care) to be carried in that aircraft."

Because of the slow destruction of alcohol by the body, a pilot may still be under influence eight hours after drinking a moderate amount of alcohol. Therefore, an excellent rule is to allow at least 12 to 24 hours between "bottle and throttle," depending on the amount of alcoholic beverage consumed.

**DRUGS**

Self-medication or taking medicine in any form when you are flying can be extremely hazardous. Even simple home or

over-the-counter remedies and drugs such as aspirin, antihistamines, cold tablets, cough mixtures, laxatives, tranquilizers, and appetite suppressors, may seriously impair the judgment and coordination needed while flying. The safest rule is to take no medicine before or while flying, except after consultation with your Aviation Medical Examiner.

### ***SCUBA DIVING***

Flying shortly after any prolonged scuba diving could be dangerous. Under the increased pressure of the water, excess nitrogen is absorbed into your system. If sufficient time has not elapsed prior to takeoff for your system to rid itself of this excess gas, you may experience the bends at altitudes even under 10,000 feet, where most light planes fly.

### ***CARBON MONOXIDE AND NIGHT VISION***

The presence of carbon monoxide results in hypoxia which will affect night vision in the same manner and extent as hypoxia from high altitudes. Even small levels of carbon monoxide have the same effect as an altitude increase of 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Smoking several cigarettes can result in a carbon monoxide saturation sufficient to affect visual sensitivity equal to an increase of 8,000 feet altitude.

### ***DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS***

Pilots flying unpressurized airplanes at altitudes in excess of 10,000 feet should be alert for the symptoms of 'decompression sickness'. This phenomenon, while rare, can impair the pilot's ability to perform and in extreme cases, can result in the victim being rendered unconscious. Decompression sickness, also known as dysbarism and aviator's "bends", is caused by nitrogen bubble formation in body tissue as the ambient air pressure is reduced by climbing to higher altitudes. The symptoms are pain in the joints, abdominal cramps, burning sensations in the skin, visual impairment



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and numbness. Some of these symptoms are similar to hypoxia. The only known remedy for decompression sickness is recompression, which can only be accomplished in an unpressurized airplane by descending. The pilot should immediately descend if it is suspected that this condition exists, since the effects will only worsen with continued exposure to the reduced pressure environment at altitude and could result, if uncorrected, in complete incapacitation. The possibility of decompression sickness can be greatly reduced by pre-breathing oxygen prior to flight and by commencing oxygen breathing well below the altitudes where it is legally mandatory.

## **A FINAL WORD**

Airplanes are truly remarkable machines. They enable us to shrink distance and time, and to expand our business and personal horizons in ways that, not too many years ago, were virtually inconceivable. For many businesses, the general aviation airplane has become the indispensable tool of efficiency.

Advances in the mechanical reliability of the airplanes we fly have been equally impressive, as attested by the steadily declining statistics of accidents attributed to mechanical causes, at a time when the airframe, systems and power plants have grown infinitely more complex. The explosion in capability of avionics systems is even more remarkable. Radar, RNAV, LORAN, sophisticated autopilots and other devices which, just a few years ago, were too large and prohibitively expensive for general aviation size airplanes, are becoming increasingly commonplace in even the smallest airplanes.

It is thus that this Safety Information is directed to the pilot, for it is in the area of the skill and proficiency of you, the pilot, that the greatest gains in safe flying are to be made over the years to come. Intimate knowledge of your airplane, its capabilities and its limitations, and disciplined adherence to the procedures for your airplane's operation, will enable you to transform potential tragedy into an interesting hangar story when - as it inevitably will - the abnormal situation is presented.

Know your airplane's limitations, and your own. Never exceed either.

Safe flying,

**BEECH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION**

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