

Risk Management Decision Path



PERCEIVE
HAZARDS
associated with:

Pilot
Aircraft
enVironment
External Factors

PROCESS
RISK LEVEL
by assessing:

Consequences
Alternatives
Reality
External Factors

PERFORM
RISK
MANAGEMENT
by deciding whether to:

Transfer
Eliminate
Accept
Mitigate



Federal Aviation
Administration

Practical Risk Management for VFR XC Flying

For additional information go to:
faasafety.gov



For questions about aviation safety,
contact:

Your Local
Federal Aviation Administration
Flight Standards District Office

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PURPOSE



For many pilots, using an airplane for personal transportation is one of the biggest benefits of being able to fly. However, since flight training and flight reviews tend to focus on basic skills and maneuvers, pilots do not always get opportunities to train for real-world cross-country flying. This guide offers ideas for teaching pilots to recognize and manage risk in VFR cross-country flying.

PROFILE

VFR cross-country accidents often involve poor planning, decision-making, and risk management in areas such as:

- Flight planning and monitoring
- Interpretation and application of weather briefing information
- Fuel and performance management
- ATC communication procedures
- Basic airplane control
- Operating rules and procedures
- Preflight inspection

PRACTICES

Teach cross-country risk management by structuring the flight review or a transition training session as a VFR cross-country trip to an unfamiliar airport.

Sample Scenarios

1. Use the outbound leg to create the kind of dynamic flight environment that a pilot could encounter in the real world.

- If terrain and route of flight permit, simulate an engine problem (partial power or total failure).

- Simulate the hazard of an inoperative VOR beacon or GPS receiver. "Failing" a GPS receiver or VOR beacon provides a lesson on situational awareness.

2. Have the pilot practice high performance takeoffs and landings (including go-arounds) at an unfamiliar airport.

3. Use the return leg to cover maneuvers normally performed for a flight review (e.g., slow flight, steep turns, stalls):

- Transitioning from slow flight into a power-off stall provides a more realistic demonstration of how unintentional stalls can actually occur.

- Have the pilot fly part of the trip by reference to instruments.

Be alert for the "teachable moments" on identifying hazards and managing risk throughout the flight:

Pilot — distraction of unfamiliar place

Aircraft — effect of density altitude

en **V**ironment — landing illusions

External — requests from ATC

POSTFLIGHT

Ask the pilot to verbally replay the the flight and reflect on these questions:



- What went well?

- What could have been better?

- What should I do differently if I encounter similar conditions in a future flight?

- What are the three most important things I learned from this flight?

- What is the most critical knowledge gap I need to fill?

- What is the skill that I most need to practice and improve?