

# 5. Operations

## 5.4 - *Aeronautical Decision Making*



# Structure & Formatting Reminder

This presentation is provided as a reference to help you prepare for the your exam. It seeks to go beyond memorization and provide explanation and rationale.

While this reference considers many of the points covered in the exam, given the breadth it is in no way exhaustive. It is suggested to consult a variety of resources when preparing for the exam.

Text that is marked in **YELLOW** has a high probability of being referenced directly in one of the exam's nearly 400 possible questions.

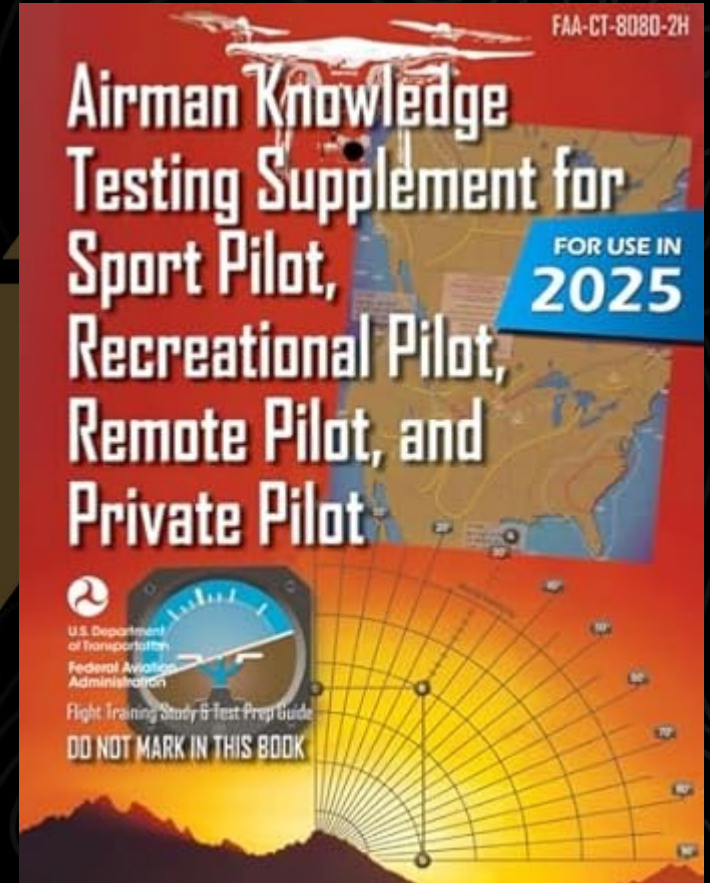
Take the quiz at the end to gauge your understanding.



# Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement

Many of the points covered in the slideshow and quiz reference images and concepts found in the “Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement”.

You can download the document from the FAA [here](#). Alternatively, a hard copy can be purchased online for around \$10.



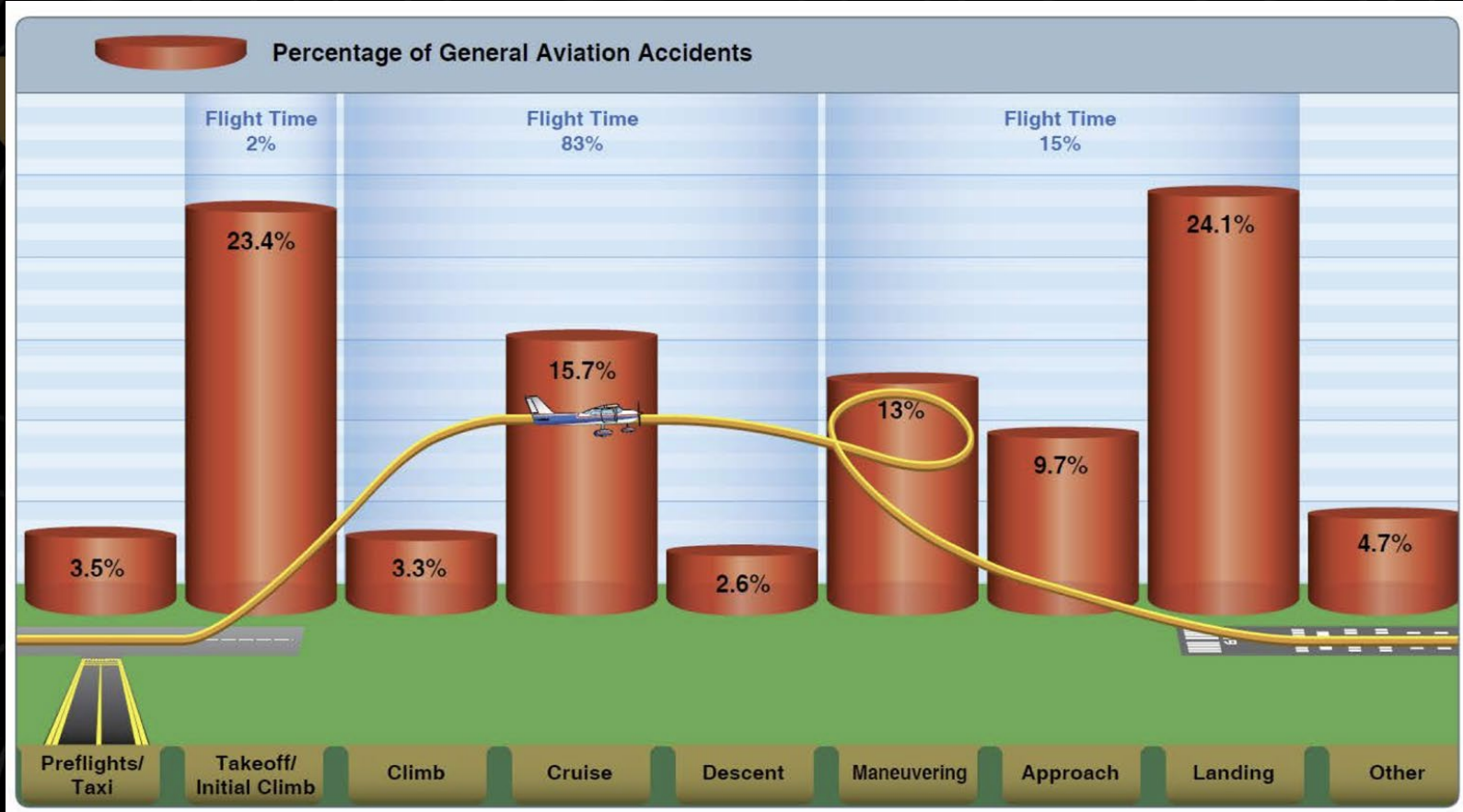
## 5.4a - Principles of Risk Management

- Accept **no unnecessary risk**.
- Make risk decisions at the appropriate level.
- Accept risk when benefits outweigh danger (cost).
- **Integrate risk management** into planning at all levels.





## 5.4a - Principles of Risk Management



Why do you think the majority of accidents take place during takeoff and landing?





## 5.4 - Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM) Overview



## 5.4 - Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM) Overview

What is ADM?

- ADM is a **systematic approach** to the mental side of flight.
- If used, ADM will help pilots consistently determine the best course of action.

***ADM = Risk Management***





## 5.4 - Aeronautical Decision Making (ADM) Overview

ADM is a **Continuous Process** that doesn't have a defined start and end. It happens in all aspects of flight but can be categorized into three main groups.

- Preflight
- In-Flight
- Post Flight



## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

- **Perceive** (*PAVE Checklist*)
  - **Gather** all relevant info pertaining to your flight.
- **Process** (*CARE Checklist*)
  - **Evaluate** the impact on flight safety, determine your best course of action.
- **Perform** (*TEAM Checklist*)
  - **Implement** the best course of action. Performance results become information to be perceived and analyzed.



## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

### PAVE

- **P** - Use the IMSAFE checklist to make sure the **pilot** is prepared.
- **A** - Make sure the **aircraft** is familiar, fueled, loaded properly, and functioning.
- **V** - Ensure the **enVironment** is safe (weather, terrain, airport, airspace, nighttime).
- **E** - **External Pressures** should not overwhelm safety.



**P**ilot



**A**ircraft



En **V**ironment



**E**xternal Pressures

## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

### Perceive - IMSAFE

A pilot's **self-assessment** tool used as a quick check.



  **I'M SAFE CHECKLIST**

**I**llness—Do I have any symptoms?

**M**edication—Have I been taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs?

**S**tress—Am I under psychological pressure from the job? Worried about financial matters, health problems, or family discord?

**A**lcohol—Have I been drinking within 8 hours? Within 24 hours?

**F**atigue—Am I tired and not adequately rested?

**E**ating—Am I adequately nourished?



## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

### Process - CARE

- **Consequences** - departing after a full workday creates fatigue and pressure.
- **Alternatives** - Delay until morning; reschedule meeting; drive.
- **Reality** - dangers and distractions of fatigue could lead to an accident.
- **External Pressures** - business meeting at designation might influence decisions.





## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

### Perform - TEAM

- **Transfer** - should the risk decision be transferred to someone else?
- **Eliminate** - is there a way to eliminate the hazard?
- **Accept** - Do the benefits of accepting risk outweigh the costs?
- **Mitigate** - What can you do to mitigate the risk?



## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

### The DECIDE Model

**Detect** that a change has occurred.

**Estimate** the need to counter or react.

**Choose** the desired outcome.

**Identify** actions to control the change.

**Do** (perform) the action.

**Evaluate** the success of the action.



# Why is ADM important in sUAS operations?



# Why is ADM important in sUAS operations?

It helps remote pilots assess risks, make safe choices, and respond effectively to unexpected situations. Good ADM reduces the chance of accidents by promoting sound judgment before and during flight.



## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

**ADM enhances the decision-making process** because it:

- 1. **Increases awareness** and importance of attitude in decision-making.
- 2. Teaches the ability to **search for and establish the relevance** of information.
- 3. **Increases their motivation** to choose and execute actions that **ensure safety** in the situational time frame.





## 5.4 - 3P Model (Perceive, Process, Perform)

- *Perceive*
  - *PAVE*
  - *IMSAFE*
- *Process*
  - *CARE*
- *Perform*
  - *TEAM*
  - *DECIDE*





## **5.4 - Effective Team Communication**



# 5.4 - Effective Team Communication - Task Management

## Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC)

- 107 Pilot - **responsible for operation and safety**. Final authority.

## Person Manipulating the Controls

- **Controlling** the flight of the sUAS **under the supervision** of the remote pilot in command.

## Visual Observer (VO)

- Designated by the RPIC to **assist with “see and avoid”** process regarding other air traffic or objects aloft.



Panther Newspaper



Propwash Drone Solutions LLC

## 5.4 - Effective Team Communication - Crew Resource Management

- CRM manages all resources available to pilot.
- CRM includes ADM, risk management, task management, automation management, controlled flight into terrain awareness, and situational awareness.
- Use CRM in all phases of flight operations.





## 5.4 - Effective Team Communication - Crew Resource Management

CRM **requires good communication** between all involved parties.

- Person-to-Person - (RPIC-VO)
  - Avoid misunderstandings, take actions to reduce risk.
- Good Communication Between GCS and Drone
  - Make sure connections between control station, drone, and other outside signals (GPS/WiFi, etc) is strong enough.
- Good communication with the FAA
  - Listed to the FAA about how to safely operate your drone.







## **5.4 - Situational Awareness**

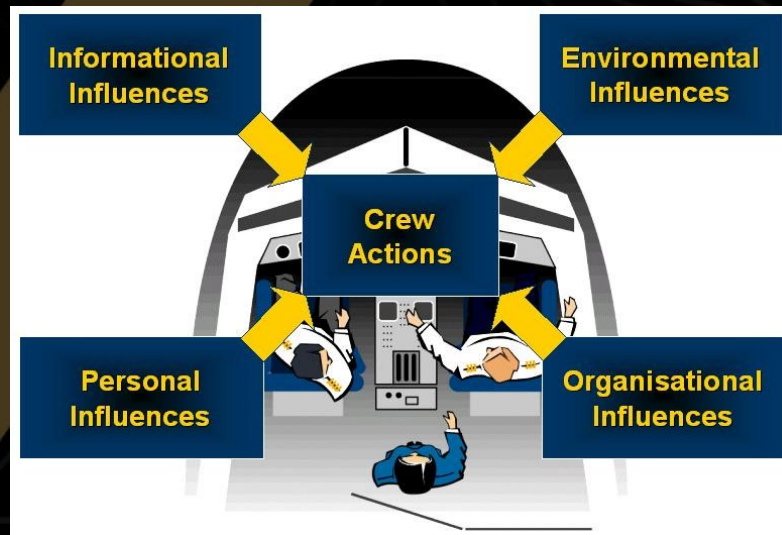


## 5.4 - Situational Awareness

**Situational awareness** allows the pilot to **plan for what will happen next** and to stay ahead of the aircraft. A forward-looking plan also provides for **early detection** of any deviation from expectations.

Be aware of the following

- Aircraft position
- Flight path
- Status of other aircraft in the area
- Status of the environment
- Human factors in play





## **5.4 - Hazardous Attitudes**



## 5.4 - Hazardous Attitudes

### Anti-authority - "Don't tell me"

- Resentful of having someone tell them what to do.



**ANTIDOTE:** Follow the rules, they help prevent accidents.



## 5.4 - Hazardous Attitudes

### Impulsivity - “Do it quickly”

- People who don't stop to think about what they are about to do. Always do the first thing that may come to mind.



**ANTIDOTE:** Not so fast, think first.





## 5.4f - Hazardous Attitudes

### Invulnerability - “It won’t happen to me”

- Someone who thinks that they will not be personally involved in an issue. More likely to take chances.



**ANTIDOTE:** It could happen to me.



## 5.4f - Hazardous Attitudes

### Macho - "I can do it"

- Always trying to prove they are better. More willing to take risks in order to impress others.



Redbubble

**ANTIDOTE:** Taking chances is foolish.



## 5.4f - Hazardous Attitudes

### Resignation - “What’s the use?”

- People who think they won’t be able to make a difference in what happens to them. Always believe that someone is out to get them or always have bad luck.



Disney

**ANTIDOTE:** I’m not helpless, I can make a difference.



# Why are hazardous attitudes so dangerous?



# Why are hazardous attitudes so dangerous?

They lead to poor judgment and risky decisions that can compromise the safety of a flight. If not recognized and managed, these attitudes can cause pilots to ignore rules, take unnecessary risks, or react emotionally instead of rationally.





What are some steps you can take to avoid hazardous attitudes or address them if they occur?



# What are some steps you can take to avoid hazardous attitudes or address them if they occur?

- Recognize the attitude when it arises.
- Apply the antidote thought or corrective action.
- Practice self-awareness and regularly reflect on your decision-making process.
- Use checklists and SOPs to stay grounded in objective procedures.
- Seek input from crew or observers if available to help maintain perspective.





## **5.4 - Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**



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Risk Assessment Matrix				
Likelihood	Severity			
	Catastrophic	Critical	Marginal	Negligible
Probable	High	High	Serious	
Occasional	High	Serious		
Remote	Serious	Medium		Low
Improbable				



# 5.4 - Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

## Flight Risk Assessment Tool (FRAT)

FRATs assign a numerical value with a type of hazard and the significance.

The user selects the hazards and derives a **score** that can fall in a **low, intermediate, or high risk**.

RISK ASSESSMENT	
Pilot's Name <input type="text"/> Flight From <input type="text"/> To <input type="text"/>	
<b>SLEEP</b>	
1. Did not sleep well or less than 8 hours	<input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 0
2. Slept well	<input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 2
<b>HOW DO YOU FEEL?</b>	
1. Have a cold or ill	<input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 0
2. Feel great	<input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 2
3. Feel a bit off	<input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 4
<b>HOW IS THE DAY GOING?</b>	
1. Seems like one thing after another (late, making errors, out of step)	<input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 0
2. Great day	<input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3
<b>IS THE FLIGHT</b>	
1. Day?	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 3
2. Night?	<input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 1
<b>WEATHER AT TERMINATION</b>	
1. Greater than 5 miles visibility and 3,000 feet ceilings	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 3
2. At least 3 miles visibility and 1,000 feet ceilings, but less than 3,000 feet ceilings and 5 miles visibility	<input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 1
3. IMC conditions	<input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> 0
Column total <input type="text"/>	
<b>PLANNING</b>	
1. Rush to get off ground	<input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 1
2. No hurry	<input type="radio"/> 1 <input type="radio"/> 3
3. Used charts and computer to assist	<input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3
4. Used computer program for all planning	Yes <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 0 No <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3
5. Did you verify weight and balance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3 No <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 0
6. Did you evaluate performance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3 No <input type="radio"/> 3 <input type="radio"/> 0
7. Do you brief your passengers on the ground and in flight?	Yes <input type="radio"/> 0 <input type="radio"/> 3 No <input type="radio"/> 2 <input type="radio"/> 0
Column total <input type="text"/>	
TOTAL SCORE <input type="text"/>	



Why is using a FRAT (Flight Risk Assessment Tool)  
essential?



# Why is using a FRAT (Flight Risk Assessment Tool) essential?

- It helps identify potential hazards before a flight and assess their severity. This allows remote pilots to make informed, proactive decisions to reduce risk and increase the safety of sUAS operations.



# Unit 5 Operations – 5.4 Review Quiz

- [5.4 - Aeronautical Decision Making – QUIZ](#)
- This quiz contains 18 questions.
  - You may take it as many times as you like.
  - The order of questions are randomized each time.
  - The large majority of the questions are worded exactly as they appear on the exam.

