

BAC Safety Spotlight



December 2021

Edited by Michelle O'Hare

Alcohol and Aviation

During Christmas and New Year celebrations it is not uncommon for people to enjoy a drink or two. However, it is important to remember that alcohol and aviation don't mix. This was recently demonstrated on the 13th of December 2021 when an aircraft sustained substantial damage when it impacted terrain in Indiana, USA. Fortunately the pilot survived the accident, however, he was subsequently charged for intoxication.

www.southbendtribune.com/story/news/2021/12/14/plane-crash-lands-near-south-bend-motor-speedway-no-injuries-police-faa-investigating/6505775001/,

Alcohol impairs almost all forms of cognitive function including information processing, decision-making, attention and reasoning. In flight it can also increase the risk of spatial disorientation and hypoxia.

A [report](#) by the ATSB found that alcohol related accidents and incidents are very low in Australia. However, where alcohol (and/or drugs) are involved, there is a very high chance of an accident, especially a fatal one.

The ATSB has published a report on Alcohol and Human Performance from an Aviation perspective

www.atsb.gov.au/publications/2004/alcohol_and_human_performance.aspx

As part of your pre-flight it is important to check if you are fit to fly. This includes a check that you have not consumed alcohol within 8 hours of the flight beginning and will not exceed the permitted level of alcohol specified in Part 99 (less than 0.02 grams of alcohol in 210 litres of breath).



www.facebook.com/AviationAccidentsThisDayInHistory/



Weather to Fly

With the recent announcement that Australia will be experiencing La Niña you can expect the weather in northern and eastern Australia to be wetter than normal this summer. The ABC has published some general information about La Niña here:

www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-24/how-will-la-nina-affect-australian-weather-summer/100644804

Weather is an essential consideration before departing on any flight and then needs to be continually monitored as the flight progresses. CASA have made available their AvSafety Seminar “Weather to Fly” on Youtube here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkbzJZI5Src

This seminar covers some key topics including:

- The importance of thorough pre-flight planning and having alternate plans
- That pressing on where there is the possibility of entering IMC carries a significant risk of spatial disorientation
- The value of using a ‘personal minimums’ checklist to help manage flight risks

Recognising and avoiding unsuitable weather is always the best option. However, don’t forget that if you are in need of assistance during flight that you can contact ATC for help.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkbzJZI5Src

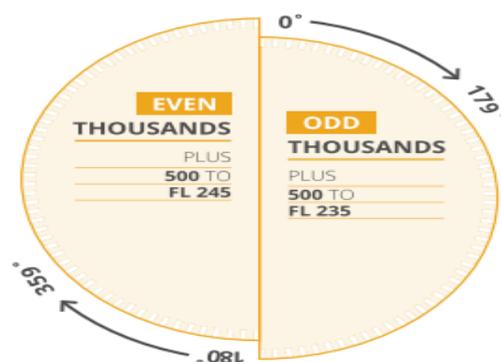
New Rules - CASR Part 91

The new CASR Part 91 General Operating and Flight Rules are now in operation. There have been a number of changes made. For example, the minimum height for hemispherical VFR cruising levels has now been set to 3,000ft AMSL (previously it was 5,000ft AMSL). To access the Plain English Guide of the new rules visit:

www.casa.gov.au/search-centre/plain-english-guides/plain-english-guide-new-flight-operations-regulations

The Visual Flight Rules Guide (VFRG) also provides a good summary of rules and information relating to flight. A PDF copy is available here (note that the website is still being updated, but the PDF is current:

<https://vfrg.casa.gov.au/>



VFR flights in Class A airspace must be approved (see 91.285).

GoFly – Aviation Videos

RAAus has partnered with GoFLY to provide members with access to a number of educational briefing videos. Topics vary from pre-flight inspections to electronic flight bags and pilot interviews. RAAUs members can access the content by logging into the RAAus website here:

www.raa.asn.au/fly-with-us/flight-training-with-gofly-online/

If you are not a RAAus member you can still access a number of the videos for free on the GoFly website, or sign up for a free 7 day trail.

<https://gofly.online/>

