

FAASTeam Maintenance Safety Tip

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Control and Actuator Locks/Pins

The more complex the aircraft is, the more dangerous the maintenance environment. Aircraft manufacturers know this and engineer a variety of special safety equipment. Safety pins and locking devices are available to apply or affix to aircraft system components to prevent accidental movement when maintenance is being performed around or on them. Their use is typically directed in the maintenance procedures. If you have them, use them. If you don't have them, acquire them.

Ponder this. Even though you may have jack stands, how often have you worked under your vehicle supported only by a hydraulic jack? No matter how long or short you plan to spend under the car, this decision is dead wrong. You are placing a great deal of confidence that the small o-ring seal will not fail. If you are wrong.....you are injured....or dead. It is the same when working on aircraft. Use the safety devices and you will be able to return home after work to relax and be with your family. They will appreciate this.

Unfortunately, there is a collateral hazard associated with using locks and pins. It is the failure to remove them before flight. Be sure they have streamers attached to them to catch attention and make sure their use or installation is documented in the maintenance records. Why? Because these devices that protect you can end up jeopardizing the safety of others.

The FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) is committed to helping you achieve the highest level of safety by providing "tools" and resources to enhance your knowledge and proficiency . For more information on maintenance safety, go to <http://faasafety.gov/AMT/pub/mh.aspx> .

Send your suggestions for improving maintenance safety to AMT@FAASafety.gov.