

August GAJSC Safety Topic

Each month the General Aviation Joint Safety Committee (GAJSC) Loss of Control (LOC) Work Group selects a safety topic. For the month of August 2016 it is “**Fly the Aircraft First**”. The FAASTeam is on the committee and fully supports every safety initiative. We need your help in spreading this message:

NTSB accident data suggest that pilots, while distracted by less essential tasking, have lost control of their aircraft and crashed. In light of this pilots are reminded to maintain aircraft control at all times. This may mean delay in responding to ATC communications and passenger requests or not responding at all unless positive aircraft can be maintained throughout. In other words, “**Fly the Aircraft First!**”

Fly the Aircraft First

- As a matter of priorities first **Aviate** (maintain aircraft control at all times), second **Navigate** (manage navigation systems and tasks including fuel reserves) and third **Communicate** (with passengers and ATC)
- Know the aircrafts performance numbers including best power off glide speed for the environment you'll be flying in.
- Plan and brief each takeoff, approach, and landing to include climb and descent expectations, go no-go points, escape routes and alternates.
- Practice emergency procedures, short and soft field takeoffs and landings, and power off approach and landings.
- Reduce distractions and insist on passengers following sterile cockpit rules during critical phases of flight, except for conversation directly related to the safety of flight.

References:

GAJSC Safety Enhancement Topic

http://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/2015/media/SE_Topic_15_01.pdf

Eastern Airlines Flight 402 Accident Report

<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/AAR7314.pdf>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Air_Lines_Flight_401

Airplane Flying Handbook Chapter 16 Emergency Procedures

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aircraft/airplane_handbook/

Risk Management Handbook Chapter 6, Single-Pilot Resource Management

http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/media/risk_management_hb_change_1.pdf