

January's GAJSC Safety Topic

Each month the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC) Loss of Control (LOC) Work Group selects a safety topic. For the month of January 2022, the topic is “[The Startle Response](#)”. The FAAS team is on the committee and fully supports every safety initiative. We need your help in spreading this message!

The General Aviation Steering Committee (GAJSC) System/Component Failure work group feels that training and education in coping with events that startle pilots will help to mitigate inappropriate response to sudden onset emergencies

One aspect of CRM addresses management of unexpected events. Humans are subject to a “startle response” when they are faced with unexpected emergency situations and may delay action or initiate inappropriate action in response to the emergency. Training and preparation can reduce startle response time and promote more effective and timely response to emergencies.

Managing Unexpected Events

- Fatal general aviation accidents often result from inappropriate responses to unexpected events.
- Unexpected events which occur close to the ground require rapid appropriate action.
- Loss of aircraft control is a common factor in accidents that would have been survivable if control had been maintained throughout the emergency.
- Pilots and CFI's should train and plan for emergencies by reviewing and practicing “what if” scenarios.
- Vocalizing takeoff, approach and landing expectations including: aircraft configuration, airspeed, altitude, route and emergency options can help a pilot be prepared for the unexpected.

Aviation Risk Management Handbook (FAA-H-8083-2).

