



SUSAN PARSON

Checklist

Safety Information

As you may have noticed from reading Bob Castle's account of an inflight fire (page 10) and Dr. Fred Tilton's tips for surviving smoke in the cockpit (page 18), preparation is key to coping successfully with an airborne emergency. Their advice is sound, but you may also want to take a look at an FAA resource—InFO number 08034—on the design and content of checklists for inflight smoke, fire, and fumes.

As Mr. Castle's experience demonstrated, events that produce inflight smoke, fire, and fumes often provide inconclusive or ambiguous cues during their early stages—and often leave very little time for action when the situation becomes clear. InFO 08034 (see link below) alerts the aviation community to the existence of a free template for developing a useful smoke/fire/fumes checklist, and a second document that includes concepts and terms. The InFO itself is a quick read (less than a page), but it includes links to these resources.

While we're on the subject of FAA resources, let me introduce you to the agency's online library of InFO and SAFO documents. Though aimed primarily at commercial operators, many of these products provide information that can also benefit general aviation (GA) pilots.

InFO

The above-mentioned document on developing a checklist for inflight smoke, fire, and fumes takes the form of an Information for Operators (InFO) message. By design, an InFO contains valuable information with relatively low urgency or impact on safety. Most InFOs also contain a recommended action to address the issue discussed in the message. The InFO is not a regulatory or mandatory document, but its goal is to help operators meet administrative or certain regulatory requirements. You can review the entire collection of InFOs on the FAA's Web site at www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/info/all_infos/. Here are a few that may be of special interest to the GA community:

InFO 07005: Taxi into Position and Hold (TIPH)—Guidance for Pilots

InFO 07008: Precipitation Reports from ATC—New Terms

InFO 07014: Flight Risk Assessment Tool

InFO 07018: Taxi Clearances: Know the Rules, Understand Your Clearance

InFO 08027: Approach Preparation: Preparing for an Instrument Approach as Backup

InFO 08038: Acknowledgement of Altitude Clearances and Altitude Read Back

SAFO

Another FAA resource is the Safety Alert for Operators, or SAFO. The SAFO is a tool that alerts, educates, and makes recommendations to the aviation community. Like an InFO, each SAFO contains important safety information and may contain recommended actions. The main difference is that while the content in InFO messages has relatively low urgency, the material covered in a SAFO is often time critical. The entire list of available SAFO messages is available online at www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/. Here are a few with particular relevance for GA pilots:

SAFO 06004: Approach and Landing Accident Reduction: Sterile Cockpit, Fatigue.

SAFO 07003: Confirming the Takeoff Runway

SAFO 07004: Garmin GPS-WAAS Models (GNS and GPS) 400W and 500W Series Units Determined Incompatible with Avidyne EXP5000 Primary Flight Displays.

SAFO 08013: Safety Recommendation Concerning Piper PA-23 and PA-31 Series Nose Baggage Doors

Take a look, and click around other parts of the FAA Web site while you are online. We have a wealth of information available to you, and we will introduce some of the agency's many other online resources in future editions of this column.

Susan Parson is a Special Assistant in Flight Standards Service's General Aviation and Commercial Division. She is an active general aviation pilot and flight instructor.