

BAC Safety Spotlight



September 2021

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Pilot Proficiency – on the ground

As a result of the current Covid-19 restrictions many of us are having a much longer break from flying than we would normally experience. CASA has published some useful information to assist you with checking if you are 'Fit to Fly' before you get back in the air.

www.casa.gov.au/about-us/covid-19-advice-industry/fit-fly

Without practice, there is a risk that over time many of the procedural skills you were once familiar with may be starting to degrade. Mental practice or 'chair flying' has been shown to sharpen skills and responses. So with the extra time we are spending at home now is the perfect time to practise your flying on the ground.

Suggestions to mentally practise include:

- **Visualise at home**

In your head run through the start-up, shut down and emergency procedures. For example, how would you perform a forced landing or a landing without flaps? Check the POH or contact an instructor if you are unsure of what actions you should take.

- **Visualise in the car**

Rehearse your radio calls in the car before you go for a drive. Check where the wind is coming from and use this information to imagine what runway you would take-off from if you were going flying.

- **Visualise and Plan a Trip**

Draw up a flight plan for somewhere you would like to fly to one day. How much fuel would you need? How much runway does the aircraft need to take-off and land safely? And considering the weather conditions should you also plan an alternate?

Remember to not make your first flight back after a break too complicated and contact an instructor if you need assistance refreshing your skills.



Fit to fly

Safety tips for returning to GA flying post COVID-19

www.casa.gov.au/about-us/covid-19-advice-industry/fit-fly



Animals making themselves at home

Animals such as birds and wasps pose a safety hazard because they, and their nests, can remain undetected in aircraft structures and controls. Animals can build nests in any cavity within a very short period of time. This could result in a pitot tube or static port becoming blocked resulting in a loss of airspeed or altitude indication which could then lead to catastrophic outcomes. In addition, mice should also be checked for as they may eat through materials including insulation on electric wires.

In July 2021 CASA issued an Airworthiness Bulletin (AWB) regarding the dangers associated with undetected wasp infestations in aircraft and the circumstances under which they can occur.

www.casa.gov.au/files/awb-02-052-issue-6-wasp-nest-infestation-alert

One example shown in this AWB is a wasp nest suspended on the cables inside the wing cavity of a Cessna 182 (refer figure below).

It is important that prior to every flight you complete a thorough inspection of your aircraft and then after parking to install appropriate covers such as those for the pitot tube.



CASA – AWB-02-052

Upcoming BAC Events

Participating in BAC events can help you to stay current and learn new skills. Make sure to save the date for the following events:

- BAC Pilot Proficiency Day – 24 October 2021
- BAC Seminar – 31 October 2021



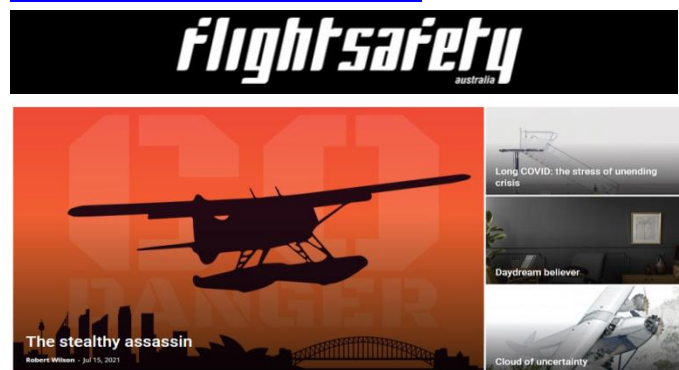
Flight Safety Australia

Looking for something to read in lockdown?

For those who have been flying for a while you may remember the Flight Safety Australia magazine which was previously posted out to pilots. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) publishes this magazine and now provides the content for free online. Alternatively you can still purchase a paid subscription if you would prefer to read it in print.

This magazine covers various aviation safety issues presented in various formats including feature articles, close calls and videos. To start reading visit:

www.flightsafetyaustralia.com/



www.flightsafetyaustralia.com/

