Practical Risk Management
For Single-Pilot IFR

PAVE Checklist

Before Engine Start
- Organize cockpit
- Brief passengers
- Ensure flight planning and wx info handy
- Get clearance and program GPS
- Check flashlights & extra batteries
- Use plan for COM/NAV radios

CHORD Checklist

Before taking the runway do a CHORD check
- Conditions: runway, weather
- Hazards associated with conditions: crosswind, slick runway, high density altitude, obstacles
- Operational changes required: flap setting, climb profile
- Runway required and return procedures: VFR or IFR return
- Departure: review departure clearance (route and altitude)

CARE Attention Scan

Consequences
- Am I thinking: What is changing? What are the consequences?
- Is the weather different than forecast?
- Have I checked my groundspeed lately?
- Am I on my flight plan for fuel and time?

Alternatives
- Is the changing weather reducing my alternatives?
- Where is my best alternate airport RIGHT NOW?
- Should I land now and expand my circle of alternatives?
- Do I have a good escape plan?

Reality
- Am I in denial about changes?
- Am I willing to change my plan when things change?

External Pressures
- Am I managing my own goal-oriented behavior?
- Am I being influenced by time pressure?
- Am I ignoring risk factors in order to reach my destination?
- Am I managing expectations and concerns of passengers and others?

Inflight Practices
- Make use of low workload periods to shift tasks from high workload periods
- Use all your resources to reduce your workload
- Use your checklist to back up your cockpit flow pattern
- Vocalize new altitudes, clearances and restrictions, and approaching intermediate or final altitudes
- Use ATC as a resource
- Brief your arrival and landing procedure before the initial approach fix
- Review the visual glidepath available for your landing transition
- If approach not stabilized at 500 feet AGL, go missed approach

Pilot

Make a frank assessment of your readiness for this flight.
- Do I pass a personal preflight with the IMSAFE Checklist?
  - Illness
  - Medication
  - Stress
  - Alcohol
  - Fatigue, Food & Water
  - Emotion

Consider Currency, Recency and Proficiency
- Am I current?
- Do I feel proficient for the tasks on this flight?
- Am I comfortable with the avionics in this airplane?
- Am I proficient using this autopilot?
- Have I set personal weather minimums for:
  - ceiling above published minimums
  - visibility above published minimums
  - clearance between cruise altitude and forecast freezing level
  - additional fuel reserves

Aircraft

Does this aircraft have:
- Adequate performance margins for conditions on this flight?
- Required equipment functioning properly?
- An autopilot?
- Satisfactory cockpit lighting and flashlights?
- Current avionics databases?

Do I have:
- The big weather picture?
- Weather at or above personal minimums?
- Any suspicious indications in the forecast?
- Deteriorating conditions
  - at my destination?
  - at my alternate(s)?
- Adequate airfield facilities for conditions?

External Pressures

Have I:
- Made provisions in case the trip cannot be completed?
- Taken steps to relieve the pressure of arriving at a certain time?
- Prepared to manage my own goal oriented behavior?
- Addressed passenger expectations and concerns?