

Col. James H. Kasler Senior Squadron
GLR-IN-069



Safety Brief
May 2008

SAFETY PLEDGE

AS A CIVIL AIR PATROL MEMBER I PLEDGE TO PROMOTE AN UNCOMPROMISING SAFETY ENVIRONMENT FOR MYSELF AND OTHERS, AND TO PREVENT THE LOSS OF, OR DAMAGE TO CIVIL AIR PATROL ASSETS ENTRUSTED TO ME. I WILL PERFORM ALL MY ACTIVITIES IN A PROFESSIONAL AND SAFE MANNER, AND WILL HOLD MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY ACTIONS IN ALL OF OUR MISSIONS FOR AMERICA.

Our monthly squadron meeting was held on Saturday May 17 at Greenwood (HFY).

For those who were unable to attend the meeting:

For monthly attendance credit, please read the May Sentinel and this safety brief, and email this month's code phrase and your CAPID to wtdirks (at) sbcglobal.net **no later than 31 May 2008.**

Topics:

- **May Sentinel Highlight: Flight Line Safety (p. 2)**
- **May Sentinel Highlight: Severe Weather Driving (p. 3)**

May Sentinel Highlight: Flight Line Safety

Since most training and flight preparation time is usually devoted to flight operations, this is an important reminder that ramp operations before and after a flight can create potentially hazardous situations as well.

Of course, every person working on the flight line during Emergency Services should have received the appropriate training in job duties and flight line safety, as well as be equipped with all necessary protective equipment (such as earplugs, gloves and safety vests).

However, it is important for every pilot to stay alert while on the ramp, to be aware of potential hazards, and to be sure to supervise passengers to keep them safe as well.

One of the most dangerous ramp hazards is a propeller strike, but there are many other more common hazards, such as fuel or chemical spills, tripping over tie-down ropes and chains, or bumping into wings, struts, tails, etc. It is especially easy to lose awareness of where you are going and what is going on around you on the ramp due to the many distractions present. It is easy to become preoccupied with the upcoming flight or looking at other airplanes, or to be disturbed by the noise from fuel trucks and aircraft.

Remember to stay vigilant and pay attention to your surroundings; stay clear of moving and starting aircraft, watch where you are going, and check the area around your airplane for people, debris or items left behind by others before starting up yourself.

May Sentinel Highlight: Severe Weather Driving

Safety on the road is as important as in the air or on a runway. Just as before flying, before driving you should be aware of what weather you might encounter, and be sure the automobile is functioning properly, especially the brakes, lights, wipers and tires. This is especially important if you might experience severe weather. Dangerous weather can include tornados, thunderstorms, high winds and fog.

In case of a tornado, do not try to out-run it. Get out of your vehicle and seek shelter in a nearby building. If none is available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from your car.

In a thunderstorm, turn on headlights, slow down, and allow extra braking distance. Avoid flooded roadways and downed power lines, and approach intersections carefully. If the storm is severe, pull over safely onto the shoulder. Stay in the car and turn on flashers.

In high winds, drivers should slow down as well. Note that vans and SUVs are more vulnerable to wind than other cars.

Fog is the leading cause of multi-vehicle accidents. Drivers should slow to a safe speed, use headlights on low-beams and turn on flashers. Use the right edge of the road, or other road markers, as a guide. Be patient and do not try to pass.

Of course the safest course of action in the event of severe weather is to not drive at all.

This month's code phrase will be: "Stay vigilant."

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