Flight Planning

What do you need to consider before flying? Why? How do you get the information you need to make safe decisions? Pilots don't like surprises.

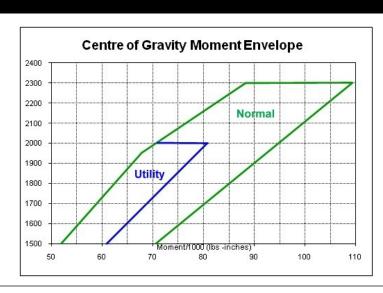
Weather	Fuel	Weight & Balance	Performance	Situational Awareness	Preflight Inspection
Clouds Type Height from ground Location Visibility Critical for VFR flight Wind Takeoff Cruise Landing Bad Weather Thunderstorms Hail Freezing rain Freezing fog Icy runways Ice of any sort Turbulence	How much? Taxi Takeoff Cruise Arrival Landing Takeoff Alternate Arrival Landing Return trip Return alternate Reserves Destination Availability Type Cost	Weight: Aircraft Fuel People Baggage Cargo Balance: "Envelope" Forward Aft "Nose-heavy" "Tail-heavy" Ballast	Takeoff: Runway length Type of takeoff Climb: Clear obstacles Reach cruising altitude Cruise: Clear obstacles Winds aloft Time Fuel economy Arrival: Clear obstacles Set up for landing Landing: Go-around Runway surface Runway length Type of landing	Pilot: Skill & training Health Fatigue Taxi: Airport diagrams Airport descriptions Signs & markings Departure: Procedures Cruise: Navigation Obstacle location Diversion Arrival: Procedures Landing: Weather Runways	Battery Engine compartment Birds Oil Fuel Tires Control Surfaces Cleanliness Frost, snow, ice
			, 0	Time: <i>Night flight</i>	

"Safety is no accident. It must be planned."

Homework

Fill out the "Would Today Be a Good Day to Go Flying?" chart for one week.

Consider the weather, your health, and any other factors that you believe may be important.



Lighting

Intro to Ground School Lesson 4