



VIRGINIA FLIGHT SCHOOL SAFETY ARTICLE – NO 17/08

HAZARDS AND RISKS INVESTIGATED – THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED



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HAZARDS AND RISKS?

HAZARD

A hazard can be considered to be any event or situation that could cause harm to persons or damage to property (have adverse consequences)”.

RISK

A risk is considered to be the potential for a hazard to result in harm to persons or damage to property (result in adverse consequences)”.

There can be many risks associated with a single hazard.

HAZARD/RISK IDENTIFICATION

Hereunder is a simple example of hazards/risks and potential consequences to enable you, the reader to put the concept into perspective.

Scenario : There is a 15 knot wind blowing directly across the runway. There is a very active flight school operating from the airfield.

Hazard : The 15 knot crosswind blowing at the airfield.

Risk : Low hour students may not be able to effectively control the light training aircraft during take off and landing in the crosswind.

Potential Consequences : Not being able to effectively control the light aircraft in the crosswind could result in an accident with damage to the aircraft/ injury to the pilot.

COMMENT

In spite of the obvious and as proven by the recent spate of general aviation accidents it is evident that pilots are ignoring the principles of safety ie. Hazard/risk/consequence/mitigation considerations.

WHY?

1. Ignorance - there are none so dangerous as those who don't know they don't know and even more so those who think they know but don't know and worst of all those who know but ignore.
 2. Macho attitude/denial. It hasn't happened to me so it won't happen to me. I can handle it!
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