

# Quick Reference Guide to VFR Flight

## Planning

### A. Get a Weather Briefing

Call 1-800-WX-BRIEF (1-800-992-7433)

Press #1 or say “briefer” to speak to a pre-flight briefer.

Say your state.

- Type of pilot
- Tail number
- Type of aircraft
- What type of briefing (standard, abbreviated, or outlook if >6 hours)
- Time of departure (Zulu time)
- Location of departure (say the full name of the city)
- Destination
- Any other pertinent information (altitudes, time, operations)

You will receive the following information (SACrED WiND)

- Synopsis
- Adverse conditions
- Current weather
- Enroute forecast
- Destination terminal forecast
- Winds aloft
- NOTAMS
- Defense (TFRs)

### B. Pre-flight Information Required for Flights Away (RAW FAT) (91.103)

Runway lengths

Alternates

Weather

Fuel requirements

ATC delays

Takeoff/landing distance data

## Preflight Preparation

### A. Pilot

Health checklist (I'M SAFE)

Illness

Medication

Stress

Alcohol

Fatigue

Eating/Emotion

Documents

Certificate

Medical

Valid photo government ID  
(Radio operator's permit for international flights)  
(Logbook if student pilot)

Currency

3 T/O & landings within 90 days (at night & in taildraggers to a full stop)  
Flight review every 24 months.

B. Aircraft

Required documents (ARROW)

Airworthiness certificate  
Registration (federal and state)  
Radio operator's permit (for international flights)  
Operating limitations (POH/AFM, placards, instrument markings)  
Weight and balance

Equipment list

Inspections (HASTE)

Hundred hour (if for hire)  
Annual  
Static/pitot & altimeter check within 24 months  
Transponder check within 24 months  
ELT within 12 months, ½ life of battery, or 1 hr cumulative use

C. Required Aircraft Components

VFR day (TOMATOES AFLAME) (91.205 b.)

Tachometer  
Oil pressure gauge  
Magnetic compass  
Airspeed indicator  
Temperature gauge (liquid cooled engines only)  
Oil temperature gauge  
ELT  
Seatbelts  
  
Anti-collision lights  
Fuel gauges  
Landing gear position indicator  
Altimeter  
Manifold pressure gauge (for each altitude engine)  
Emergency equipment

VFR night (FLAPS) (91.205 c.)

Fuses (or circuit breakers)  
Landing lights (if for hire)  
Anti-collision lights  
Position lights  
Source of electric power (such as alternator or generator)

## **Departure**

Before take-off, verify: HAT

Heading  
Altitude  
Time

## **Enroute**

Priorities

Aviate  
Navigate  
Communicate

Cruise Checklist (FRECA)

Fuel (quantity, tank, mixture)  
Radios  
Engine (gauges)  
Compass (set)  
Altimeter

## **Emergencies**

A. FLY THE PLANE!

B. Engine Failure (ABCD)

Airspeed (best glide)  
Best Field (select) *Consider: Wind, Size, Surface, Shape, Slope, Surroundings*  
Checklist (if time) *Re-start attempt and shutdown.*  
Declare (an emergency) *Squawk: 7700, Radios: 121.5, "Mayday X 3"*

C. Spin Recovery (PARE) (follow the approved flight manual procedures)

Power idle  
Ailerons neutral  
Rudder opposite (then neutralize after rotation stops)  
Elevator forward (briskly forward to break stall, then recover from resulting dive)

D. Lost Procedures (C's)

Circle – Do not aggravate the situation by going on  
Climb – You can see better and your radios will reach farther  
Conserve – Check how much fuel you have left  
Cross-check – Use your navigation instruments, such as the VOR or GPS  
Communicate –  
Call approach because they have radar.  
If that does not work, try FSS (often 122.2).  
If it is a true emergency, declare an emergency on 121.5.

Confess – Tell them the situation.

Comply – Do what they say.

E. Go-around (C's)

Cram (throttle, carburetor heat, and prop, if applicable)

Climb

Clean (flaps and landing gear)

Communicate

**Arrival**

Pre-landing checklist (GUMPPSS)

Gas

Undercarriage

Mixture

Prop

Pumps

Seatbelts

Safety

On final in a complex aircraft

Reds (mixture)

Blues (prop)

Greens (gear)

**Landing**

Float

Fly

Flare

## **Other**

Magnetic Compass Turns: UNOS

- Undershoot
- North
- Overshoot
- South

Compass dip: ANDS

- Accelerate
- North
- Decelerate
- South

Aircraft certification categories: TURN PALE

- Transport
- Utility
- Restricted
- Normal
- Provisional
- Acrobatic
- Limited
- Experimental

NTSB Notification: P-FACTION

- Property damage more than \$25,000
- Fire, in flight
- Accident
- Collision, in flight
- Turbine failure
- Illness of crew member
- Overdue aircraft
- No control: control failure of any sort

Airport Sign Types (MIDDLR)

- Mandatory Instruction
- Information
- Destination
- Direction
- Location
- Runway Distance Remaining