

Pre-Flight Planning

On a frequent basis, and perhaps before each flight, the planning section of each applicable chapter should be reviewed to ensure that pilots and passengers are able to perform as expected in the event of a survival situation, and that all necessary equipment is checked, operational and accessible.

Research shows that survival planning before a flight has a distinct and positive impact on survivability. Planning should include:

- familiarization and equipment checks
- review of field and survival planning checklists
- establishing contingencies and survival strategies
- thorough pilot and passenger briefings about safety equipment and procedures
- pilot and passenger assignments and responsibilities during an emergency

Interviews with survivors of aircraft emergencies indicate that equipment not directly attached to the body when an emergency occurs is seldom available after egress from the aircraft. This includes flotation, survival kits, and any other survival equipment.

Proper pre-flight planning includes checking required survival equipment and ensuring that it fits within a garment worn during flight operations, to the greatest extent possible.

“Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about six minutes without air, but only for one second without hope.”

— *Hal Lindsey* —