Training

Several months ago we began talking about **communication** while coming out to the runway, while flying and when making a normal landing. There is one other time when communication can be an extremely **important safety issue**. A time when it could help prevent potential serious injury!

If you fly enough flights, and make enough landings, sooner or later you will experience something abnormal as you are making your approach to land. Maybe the wind over the trees causes your plane to climb or drop suddenly or causes it to bump up and down and be almost impossible to land. Or, maybe a cross wind kicks up at the wrong time causing your plane to veer or drift in or out as you approach. Or, possibly something mechanical causes your plane to become "evil" to the point that you lose control.

Any of these things can cause potential damage to your plane, but given the right (wrong) circumstances, they can put all the pilots on the flight line in some jeopardy of being hit. We have all seen or at least heard of the severity of injuries from a spinning propeller, and many of us have seen planes crash land all too close to the pilots.

What makes the situation of more concern, is that we also know that while flying your plane it is not easy to "see" the other planes that may be in the air or getting ready to land. And so, in a sense, the pilots must depend on each other to communicate! It is also true however, that when you are in crisis mode with your plane, it is hard to remember to do that. We also preach that we should deliberately **crash a plane rather than let it hit any people**, and that is always true, but, in some cases when landing there just may not be time, or your control of the plane may be lost.

I thus suggest that each of us do a little mental practice, or perhaps practice on the simulator, to **scream out** something such as "**look out**" or "**watch out**" if your plane starts to come toward the other pilots (or the pits) for any reason, even if you think you may be able to correct it. This will at least alert people to glance quickly and take whatever action they determine is appropriate. And yes, for the other pilots, it <u>is possible</u> to look and then take a few steps or even run out of the way and still keep your plane in the air in most cases. But, without a warning you may not know to do that!

One other thought is that, since we usually have as many or more of us sitting around talking or just watching the flying, those of us watching can also contribute if we see a potentially dangerous situation. Those "watching" can <u>also</u> call out and they may have a little calmer and cooler perspective than the pilot of the errant plane!

Once again we see that communication amongst us can really help us all have a better and safer flying experience. Please give all of this some thought, and ….

Remember to try something new each time you fly!

Steve Klute
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