

# INADVERTENT IMC

inadvertent

adjective

***not resulting from or achieved  
through deliberate planning.***

Oxford Languages / Google October 2022

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# IS IT INADVERTANT?

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- We have been trained in Meteorology.
- We have been trained what to do in the event of IIMC.
- With the ability and technology to forecast the weather we can see bad weather ahead.
- We are a helicopter, we have the ability to land anywhere....
- Yet we took off knowing the weather was marginal
- *Why?*
- *Deliberate....??*
- *Intentional....??*
- *Calculated....??*



# DVE

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- **DEGRADED VISUAL ENVIROMENT**
- The conception of IIMC tends to make pilots think of flying into a big fluffy cloud on a sunny day... That's not how it happens
- The circumstances are more insidious....
- The weather slowly closes in, the cloud base drops, the visibility reduces, you keep going, then the visibility reduces further until you are in IMC
- Maybe IIMC should be know as:
- **CONTINUED FLIGHT IN DEGRADING VISUAL CONDITIONS.**



# CONTINUED FLIGHT IN DEGRADING VISUAL CONDITIONS.

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- Helicopter lack of inherent stability
- Loss of peripheral vision (tunnel vision)
- Increasing Workload
- Increasing Stress
- Loss of ability - regression
- Loss of Control

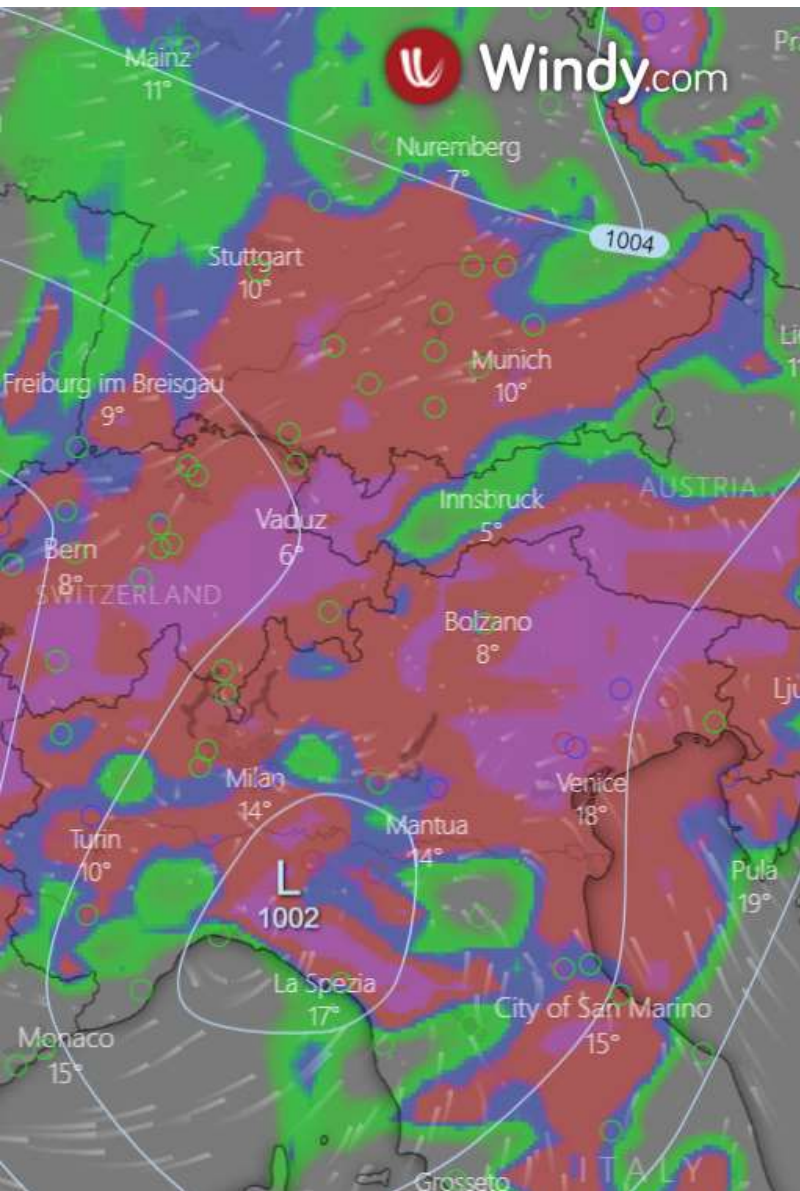


# PILOTS ARE OPTIMISTS

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- We think we are better pilots than we are
- We think the weather is better than forecast
- I got away with it last time, so I'll be OK this time
- We do not fail the mission
- We are risk takers





# RISK

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- **RISK PERCEPTION**

- the subjective judgement that a pilot makes about the characteristics and severity of a risk

- **RISK TOLERANCE**

- the level of risk a pilot is willing to take
- Research shows that it is risk mis-perception and not high risk tolerance that is associated with exposure to hazardous aviation events



# INVESTMENT

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- Often a pilot will take off to “have a look” ...
- They think that they can always slow down, turn around or land
- Once pre-flighted, started up, taken off they have invested in the flight
- **Humans are bad at giving up on investments.....**
- So...
- They carry on, hoping it will get better



# PILOT ERROR v PILOT NEGLIGENCE

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- error
- noun
  - *a mistake, especially one that causes problems or affects the result of something*
- Oxford Learners Dictionary 2022
- negligence
- noun
  - **A failure to behave with the level of care that someone of ordinary prudence would have exercised under the same circumstances.**
- Cornell Law School, 2022





# ERROR OR NEGLIGENCE?

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- It is fairly easy to prove in a court of law that the accident was due to **Pilot Negligence** NOT **Pilot Error...**
- Consider the consequences before you fly.....
- Flying solo killing yourself is one thing, but none of your passengers asked to be killed...
- No Insurance (Aircraft, Life, Personal, Medical)
- Legal action against pilot – or more commonly the pilot's estate....

A red helicopter is parked on a gravel field. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains under a cloudy sky. To the right, there are some large concrete pipes stacked. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn.

# HOW DO WE SURVIVE?

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1. HAVE PERSONAL WEATHER LIMITATIONS
2. DO NOT TAKE OFF!
3. DIVERT EARLY
4. SLOW DOWN
5. LAND