

INADVERTENT IMC

inadvertent

adjective

not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning.

Oxford Languages / Google October 2022

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IS IT INADVERTANT?

- 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

- **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.

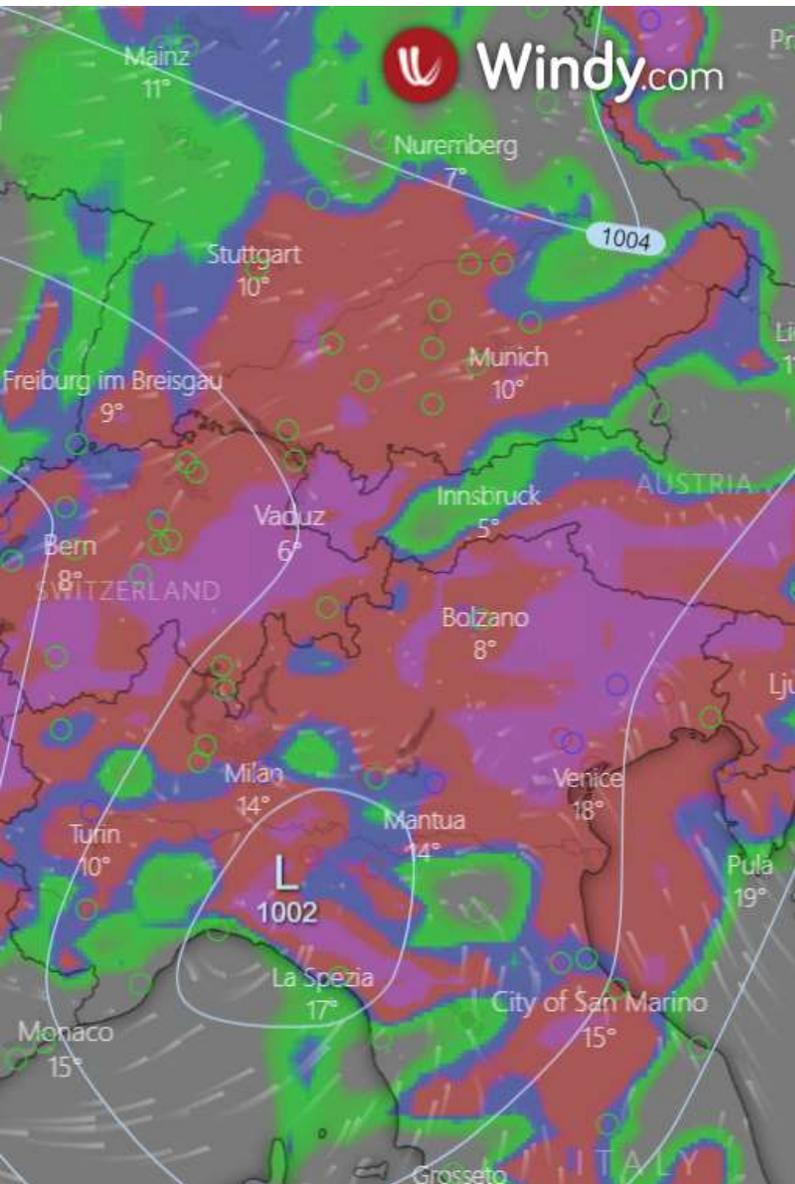
- Helicopter lack of inherent stability
- Loss of peripheral vision (tunnel vision)
- Increasing Workload
- Increasing Stress
- Loss of ability - regression
- Loss of Control



PILOTS ARE OPTIMISTS

- 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

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RISK

- **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



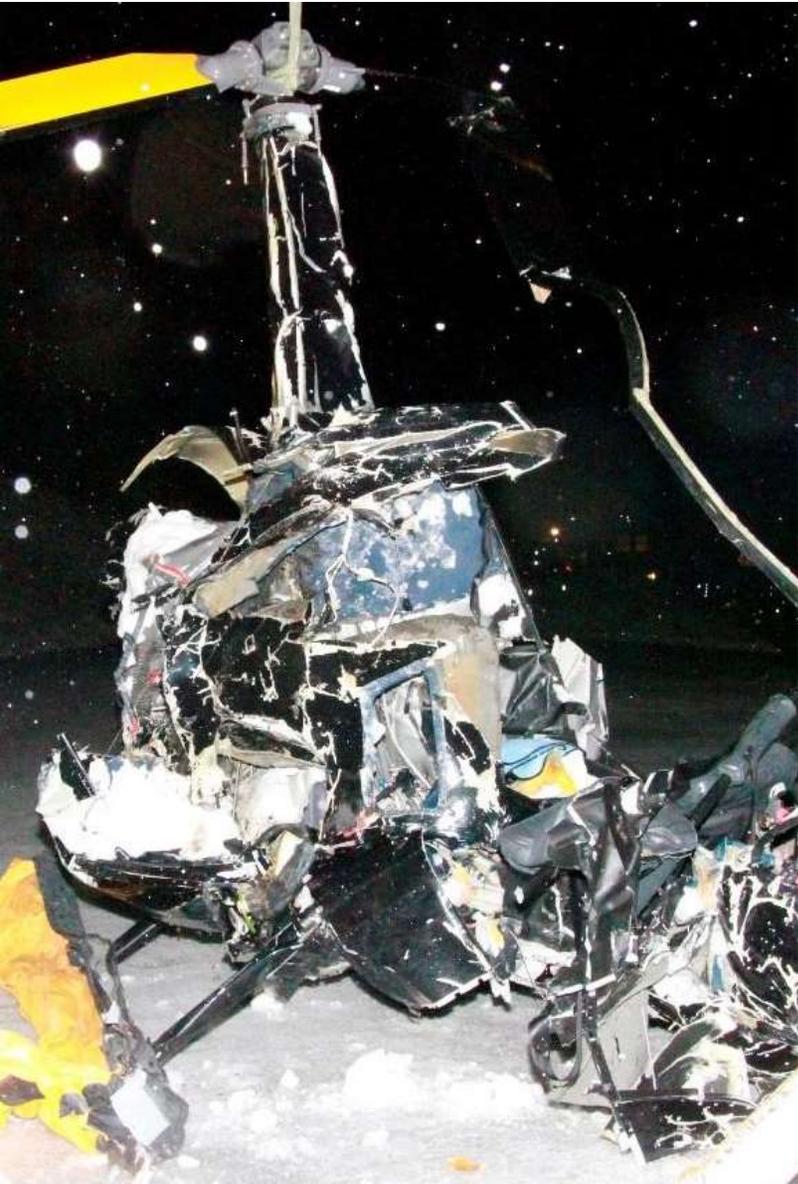
INVESTMENT

- 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

- 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?

- 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....



HOW DO WE SURVIVE?

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