



Survival

Many general aviation (GA) accidents are survivable if you are equipped with the right equipment and can use the right techniques. For example in Alaska, seatbelts — especially four- or five-point seatbelts — or adding helmets could save 60 percent of the lives involved in an aircraft accident. Are you prepared and do you have the tools you need to survive an accident?

Tips for Pilots

Accidents can happen quickly. Three factors will impact your ability to survive: **knowledge**, **discipline**, and **planning**. Here are some quick tips:

- ◆ Know your aircraft. Do you know which way your seatbelt unbuckles? There is no standards so practice unbuckling in your airplane. Have you checked your seatbelt placement to ensure it's unobstructed during an emergency?
- ◆ Upgrade your equipment. Installing four- or five-point seatbelts and using a helmet might save your life.
- ◆ Sometime you can only get out with the clothes on your back. Wear a survival vest and carry tools, lighting, and signaling devices. Also consider carrying a small first aid kit and a bottle of water.
- ◆ Know what roads are along your route and what direction they are in.

- ◆ Dress in layers for anticipated weather conditions along your route. Clothing is your primary shelter.
- ◆ File a flight plan even when flying VFR. This enables flight tracking and means that emergency services will be alerted should you not arrive when expected.
- ◆ Have the will to survive!

Resources for Pilots

- ◆ *FAA Safety Briefing: Be Prepared* (Jul/Aug 2013)
<http://1.usa.gov/1NhfjyY>
- ◆ Basic Survival Training 1-Day Course at CAMI
<http://1.usa.gov/1LetIK6>
- ◆ "Basic Survival Skills for Aviation" CAMI Manual
<http://1.usa.gov/1VBPQ2t>
- ◆ Aircrew Survival Videos Playlist on YouTube
<http://bit.ly/1Pl8gox>
- ◆ "Off Airport Ops Guide" FAASafety Team Brochure
<http://1.usa.gov/1WITmKT>
- ◆ AOPA Air Safety Institute: Survival Safety
<http://bit.ly/1VBQehn>

