



DISTRACTED MUCH?

Will an in-flight electrical failure result in bent metal? Happens more often than you'd think. The failure itself typically isn't the culprit, though. Instead, the pilot, distracted by the electrical failure, actually causes the accident. What distracted the pilot? Most likely his inability to troubleshoot the problem or his inability to continue flying the aircraft because, yeah, he didn't understand the system, fixated and forgot to fly the airplane, and/or didn't use the POH procedures. Here's a peek:

OCTOBER 6, 2011, CULPEPER, VA.

Piper PA-28R-201T Turbo Arrow III
Injuries: 1 Uninjured

Probable Cause: "The pilot's inadequate knowledge of the airplane's emergency gear extension procedures, which resulted in his failure to successfully perform a manual extension of the landing gear."

FEBRUARY 21, 2010, LOCKHART, TX

Cessna 172RG Cutlass RG
Injuries: 2 Uninjured.

Probable Cause: "The flight instructor's failure to use the emergency checklist, and his failure to extend the landing gear manually. Contributing to the accident was the electrical failure/malfunction for reasons undetermined."

MARCH 25, 2007, AUGUSTA, GA.

Beech BE-90 King Air
Injuries: 3 Uninjured

Probable cause: "A total failure of the electrical system for undetermined reasons, which resulted in the pilot's inability to ensure that the landing gear was down and locked."