

CFIT AND THE FLICK

The FAA Advisory Circular AC 61-134, *General Aviation Controlled Flight Into Terrain Awareness*, defines CFIT as a situation which "...occurs when an airworthy aircraft is flown under the control of a qualified pilot, into terrain (water or obstacles) with inadequate awareness on the part of the pilot of the impending collision."

The AC defines situational awareness as "...when the pilot is aware of what is happening around the pilot's aircraft at all times in both the vertical and horizontal plane. This includes the ability to project the near term status and position of the aircraft in relation to other aircraft, terrain, and other potential hazards."

The Las Vegas sectional current at the time of the accident depicted the maximum elevation figure (MEF) in the area as 9400 feet msl; the accident site was located at 8869 feet msl. For additional details on the MEF and mountain flying in general, see the article beginning on page 16.

