



STANDARD-ISSUE IMC ESCAPE MOVES

If you entered IMC by penetrating the side of a cloud, a nice, smooth, easy one-minute standard-rate turn will get you pointed back the way you came; fly another minute or so to get you back out again. That's pretty much it; relax your grip, keep 'er trimmed level and turn, standard rate, for 60 seconds...in 60 more, you should start to see light again.

If you climbed into or descended into a cloud layer, well...that's situation-sensitive. If you climbed to avoid being forced lower into terrain, then you've probably already exhausted your scud-running options.

Climbing may be best; communicate your confession to ATC and ask for information on the cloud tops in your area.

If you descended into the clag — without a rating, currency or common sense — well, you ignored that voice longer than most. But the solution is similar: Climb while you communicate and confess.

Engaging the autopilot can help with the cockpit chores while you climb, confess and communicate, but it's not a substitute for good judgment or an instrument rating. Encountering inadvertent IMC is a serious situation, but it doesn't have to be a link in the accident chain. Fly the airplane, remember your training and find some VMC.

