

EQUIPPING FOR OXYGEN

The FAA's pamphlet, *Oxygen Equipment Use In General Aviation Operations*, OK-09-439, includes useful guidance for pilots unfamiliar with the appropriate equipment. Among its recommendations is the following checklist:

"Prior to every flight, the pilot should perform the "PRICE" check on the oxygen equipment. The acronym PRICE is a checklist memory-jogger that helps pilots and crewmembers inspect oxygen equipment.

- **PRESSURE**—ensure that there is enough oxygen pressure and quantity to complete the flight.
- **REGULATOR**—inspect the oxygen regulator for proper function. If you are using a continuous-flow system, make sure the outlet assembly and plug-in coupling are compatible.
- **INDICATOR**—most oxygen delivery systems indicate oxygen flow by use of flow indicators. Flow indicators may be located on the regulator or within the oxygen delivery tube. Don the mask and check the flow indicator to assure a steady flow of oxygen.
- **CONNECTIONS**—ensure that all connections are secured. This includes oxygen lines, plug-in coupling, and the mask.
- **EMERGENCY**—have oxygen equipment in the aircraft ready to use for those emergencies that call for oxygen (hypoxia, decompression sickness, smoke and fumes, and rapid decompressions.) This step should include briefing passengers on the location of oxygen and its proper use."

