



THE OTHER BODY PROBLEM

There is a difference between putting ourselves at risk and putting others at risk through our actions. I definitely view single-pilot accidents differently than those when otherwise-innocent passengers are involved, particularly when pilot error is the mishap's root cause most of the time. That means I also am less shocked when a solo pilot makes a stupid decision. Most of us have a different risk threshold for ourselves than we have when others are involved.

After I got my private certificate, it took a while before I became comfortable taking others up. I felt the same way when I earned my instrument rating and when I got my tailwheel endorsement.

That conservative approach to putting others at risk is a feeling we should never let go of when flying and in other activities. Your passengers put their lives in your hands. You should respectfully take that responsibility seriously by knowing you are proficient for the planned operation before placing additional souls at risk.

