



Pitot-Static Failure Modes

Courtesy Cirrus Aircraft and a pilot's operating handbook for the SR20, following are the FAA-approved procedures for resolving the two basic kinds of pitot-static system blockages: a blocked pitot tube or a blocked static source, the latter of which is pictured above.

STATIC SOURCE BLOCKED

If erroneous readings of the static source instruments (airspeed, altimeter and vertical speed) are suspected, the alternate static source valve, on side of console near pilot's right ankle, should be opened to supply static pressure from the cabin to these instruments.

• Note •

If selecting the alternate static source does not work, in an emergency, cabin pressure can be supplied to the static pressure instruments by breaking the glass in the face of the vertical speed indicator. When static pressure is supplied through the vertical speed indicator, the vertical speed UP-DOWN indications will be reversed (i.e., the needle will indicate UP for descent and DOWN for climb).

With the alternate static source on, adjust indicated airspeed slightly during climb or approach according to the Airspeed Calibration (Alternate Static Source) table in Section 5 as appropriate for vent/heater configuration.

1. Pitot HeatON
2. Alternate Static SourceOPEN

PITOT TUBE BLOCKED

If only the airspeed indicator is providing erroneous information, and in icing conditions, the most probable cause is pitot ice. If setting Pitot Heat ON does not correct the problem, descend to warmer air. If an approach must be made with a blocked Pitot tube, use known pitch and power settings and the GPS groundspeed indicator, taking surface winds into account.

1. Pitot HeatON