

# Is Training A Problem?

Many in the flight training community may not want to emphasize the typical hazards that can result in a fatal accident if the pilot doesn't correctly identify, assess and mitigate their risks. Instead, they may be concerned that exposing these risks to primary students would scare them into re-thinking the extent to which, if any, they are confident in their abilities, in their aircraft and—yes!—in their training. Such an assessment, it is feared, would deter them from continuing flight training. I believe the opposite is true.

In my opinion, the training community needs to be candid, explicit and honest about the hazards and risks from operating general aviation aircraft. Training should be focused on discussing the impact and risks associated with scenarios typically faced by pilots using the specific certificate or rating being sought. This can sharply contrast with the typical flight training organization's historical methods. It also can mean the flight training organization must change the way it does things. Neither may be popular among training providers—at least those that might be described as “old school”—which prefer to concentrate on more traditional, maneuver-based “stick-and-rudder” training.

But that kind of reaction to scenario-based training in risk mitigation thankfully is in the minority. Training providers are finding they can use flight training devices (FTD), advanced aviation training devices (AATD) and appropriate online training materials to provide students a firm foundation in risk management techniques and mitigation without detracting from their aircraft-handling skills. Using those tools demonstrates there's more than one way forward.



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