

WHAT SHOULD THIS GUY HAVE DONE?

We have a tough time coming up with options for this accident flight other than parking the airplane and driving to the destination. The Great Circle route between Durango and Aspen is only 131 nm, but the surface route likely is substantially longer, possibly making this a five-or-six-hour drive. Which beats never arriving at all. But the pilot did have a few other options:

LEAVE EARLIER

If he had monitored weather for a day or so in advance, he would have known about the coming IMC, icing and turbulence.

LEAVE LATER

This should have been a no-brainer: Wait until the bad stuff blows out, maybe the next day, then make the 45-minute flight.

CHARTER A MORE-CAPABLE AIRPLANE (AND AN INSTRUMENT RATING)

If he absolutely, positively had to fly to Aspen, he could have chartered an aircraft with known-icing capability and flown by a professional pilot. Which presumes any charter operators would fly in that weather.

