



Airfreddy's Flying Stories

Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From

Story #7: Runway ITIS

This is a real story of an accident which took place on my home Airport of Falcon Field in Mesa. This is not my story but an accident that happened.

One Saturday I was on my way into the airport and my cell phone rang and it was one of my students calling and asking about the plane that crashed. The student didn't know whose plane it was so like any other flight school owner I checked my schedule. None of my planes were flying at the time. In a small community such as this the word gets out pretty fast, so I called around and found out that an experimental GlassairIII had crashed on the golf course at the end of the runway. I did know the mechanic on board who rented the space next to me when I first started out.

After calling around and talking to a bunch of people we found out that the plane had taken off, got about a half mile out and the engine quit. The pilot tried to do a 180 and crashed into some trees off the golf course. The pilot and mechanic didn't make it to happy hour that day.

This is a perfect example why you don't do try and make it back to the runway you just took off on. I have had some pretty heated arguments with other flight instructors and commercial pilots that just say "the runway is right there why not go for it" The FAA Stresses this also over and over again also.

I would say if you are a very experienced and proficient aerobatic pilot, you might make it. Even most of them would opt to go straight ahead. In this case there was a highway and golf course straight ahead of them.

I don't know why the pilot chose to try and make it back especially in a high performance /high wing loaded aircraft.

So once again if you can't see it in your windshield, don't try and land there. GO STRAIGHTAHEAD



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