Build Situational Awareness:

Set specific objectives – Define flight targets and data gathering
Set priorities – Follow standard operating procedures (SOPs)
Prepare for anomalies – Consider visual illusions, missing information, etc.
Make risk assessments – Ask “what if?”
Manage workload – Shift tasks away from busy times, delegate, anticipate

Maintain Situational Awareness:

Communicate – Keep all crew members and external participants informed
Manage attention – Set priorities, avoid distractions, adjust monitoring to the urgency of the flight phase

Seek Information – Use your senses
✓ Know WHAT is important, WHEN to seek it and WHERE to find it
✓ Validate your data
  • Cross-check – Use multiple sources of information when available
  • Use rules of thumb when data are not available

Check Your Understanding
✓ Check for contradictory elements in the real world
✓ Apply experience and lessons learned

Think Ahead
✓ Brief others on what you expect
✓ Compare projected situation with objectives
✓ Set markers for confirmation and information
✓ Compare actual situation with expectations and objectives
✓ Readjust your plan if required
Operator’s Guide to Human Factors in Aviation

Situational Awareness
Quick Reference & Reminder (cont’)

Detect Loss of Situational Awareness:
Look for clues of degraded Situational Awareness

- **Ambiguity** – Unclear flight plans or ATC instructions
- **Fixation** – Focusing on one thing to the exclusion of all else
- **Confusion** – Uncertainty about or misunderstanding a situation or information
- **Preoccupation** – Everyone focusing on non-flying activities; no one flying the aircraft
- **Unresolved discrepancies** – Contradictory data or personal conflicts
- **Expected checkpoints not met** – Flight plan, profile, time, fuel burn
- **Poor communications** – Vague or incomplete statements
- **Broken rules** – Limitations, minimums, regulatory requirements, failure to follow SOPs
- **No time** – Falling behind the aircraft

Recover Situational Awareness:

Go to the nearest SAFE, SIMPLE and STABLE situation

- Follow rules, procedures and SOPs
- Change automation level
- Buy time

**Communicate** – Asking for help is not a sign of weakness

**Recover the big picture**

- Go back to the last thing you were sure of
- Assess the situation from different perspectives, with different sources
- Expand your focus to avoid fixation and tunnel vision
- Manage stress and distraction
- Take time to think / Use that time / Be willing to delay flight progress

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