



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

May 23, 2013

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

A letter to the GA Community:

As summer approaches and the economy improves, I hope each of you has the opportunity to return to the skies as often as possible. But before you do, I ask you to make sure you're ready – really ready – to fly.

At a meeting with leaders from the GA community, we discussed the challenge we've had to improve GA safety in recent years. The number of fatal accidents has remained stubbornly flat. We committed to use all our means to reach out to everyone in the community – pilots, mechanics, aircraft owners, FBOs, and even your family members who fly as passengers – to share some simple messages.

- Take advantage of the training opportunities that you have. Fly with an instructor to brush up your skills. If an organization or type club you belong to offers online or other training, take it.
- Know the weather for every flight and know whether you can handle it. If not, wait and fly another day.
- Talk to your colleagues in the hangar and at your local airport and make safety the number one topic. Instill a safety culture in everyone around you.
- Intervene if you see someone doing something unsafe. If you don't, after the accident you'll wish you had.

Together, we're making long-term investments in safety. We're improving training and testing standards, streamlining the certification of life-saving technologies, and developing and using data to better understand the risks and mitigation strategies in general aviation.

But for this summer – this flying season – we need you to make a personal commitment to understand your strengths and limitations, to use a personal minimums checklist, and make sure you are ready each and every time you fly. If we each make that commitment, then together we'll reduce fatal accidents.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Huerta
Administrator