



COPA CODE OF CONDUCT

By Rick Beach

This series of articles in *Cirrus Pilot* details a different section each month from the COPA Code of Conduct. Based on the Aviators' Model Code of Conduct, version 1.1, COPA has adopted these principles to encourage safe and courteous flying among Cirrus pilots.

Environmental Issues

The fifth section of the COPA Code of Conduct addresses principles that will improve the perception of General Aviation by respecting the environment in which we fly.

Principles for Pilots:

- A. Recognize and seek to mitigate the environmental impact of aircraft operations.
- B. Minimize the discharge of fuel, oil, and other chemicals into the environment; particularly during refueling, preflight preparations and servicing.
- C. Avoid environmentally sensitive areas.
- D. Mitigate aircraft noise in populated or other noise-sensitive areas and comply with applicable noise-abatement procedures.

The effects that aviation has on the environment include noise, pollution, and habitat. Demonstrating respect for the environment will help maintain the freedom given to General Aviation.

Noise impacts from General Aviation frequently top the list of airport neighborhood concerns and complaints. The Cirrus noise signature at full throttle and RPM exceeds many noise curfews for late-night operation and irritates noise-sensitive neighbors at other times. Climbing at Vy or reducing RPM on takeoff, from 2,700 to 2,600 when you reach the airport boundary or sustaining a climb, will dramatically reduce the noise on the ground. Discovering and following noise abatement procedures for each airport will help eliminate complaints and may even help keep the airport open. Check airport

procedure information before you arrive, and certainly before you depart. Avoid residential areas by extending your climb, turning over non-residential areas, or following freeways.

Just like neighbors like their peace and quiet, respecting environmentally sensitive areas such as national parks and refuges is vitally important. For example, the Grand Canyon has a unique chart for VFR flight that balances sightseeing possibilities with tranquil park experiences on the ground. Other national-protected areas limit flight below 2,000 feet AGL. Respect these balanced limitations or expect that more severe ones will replace them.

Aviation generates pollution – Avgas contains lead; oils and chemicals are often washed off our planes (Cirrus airplanes are notorious for oily bellies!); so honor practices that mitigate these pollutants, especially on the ground. Use sampling jars and either return fuel to the tanks or dispose of it in designated places. Patronize FBO and aviation services that demonstrate respect for the environment.

Do your part in respecting the environment. It may help preserve our privilege to fly so freely within it.

Have a great Cirrus day!

About the Author: *Rick Beach is a long-standing COPA member based at KMYE. He regularly posts on-line as our de-facto Cirrus "accident historian", and constantly champions better decision making. He has 1700 hours on his 2001 SR22.*

The COPA Code of Conduct contains more examples of suggested practices that will improve your flying. Look for a copy at the next COPA event or download your own from the COPA website – go to our main page, www.cirruspilots.org, and click on **COPA Code of Conduct**. To receive a printed copy of the **COPA Code of Conduct**, please send a 9 × 6-inch, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

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