

Safe Flying Tip number eight:

Get Home Itis

We had a salesman bring home a brand new Cessna from Kansas to Long Island. He had an appointment with a prospective buyer and was excited to get home. The weather was deteriorating and he decided to continue the flight across the Appalachian Mountains. He stuck a tower and the result was a fatality. This was thirty years ago before we had developed the PLC. Maybe if he had a PLC he would have realized he did not have a SOLID GOLD OUT. I would like to think he would have landed and waited for the weather to improve.

My wife and I flew with another couple to Atlantic City thirty years ago. When it was time to return on Sunday afternoon, the weather was below my personal limitations. I told my friend I did not feel I could make the flight safely. He rented a car to get home because he had to get to work the next day. I felt bad that I could not get him home on time, but I am still flying thirty years later. I made a good choice.

Get Home ITIS can also be Get There Itis. During JFK Jr.'s decision making process on whether or not to make the flight to MVY, he had pressure from his passengers to get to MVY. I am sure this influenced his poor decision to fly in weather beyond his capabilities.

My thoughts regarding GET HOME ITIS

- DO NOT LET YOUR PASSENGERS INFLUENCE YOUR GOOD FLYING DECISIONS OR CAUSE YOU TO VIOLATE YOUR PERSONAL LIMITATIONS.
- BE PREPARED TO LEAVE THE PLANE AND GET HOME BY ANOTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BEFORE YOU VIOLATE YOUR PLC.