

5. Conclusion (for prevention of accidents involving private small aircraft and gliders)

This analysis revealed that among the pilots that caused the targeted accidents, 22 had flight experience for 301 to 1000 hours and 20 had 1001 or more hours of experience. By age, those in their 50s and 60s combined were 34, accounting for nearly 60% of the total.

Pilots with the total flight time of 301 to 1000 hours may have accumulated experience in familiarization flights and recreational flights after obtaining a license and may have become confident in their skills.

On the other hand, the analysis of causal factors shows the involvement of human factors, such as wrong assumptions carelessness and negligence, as well as a gap between perceptions and reality concerning skills, in many of the accidents. There was also a case where a pilot's excessive self-confidence triggered the accident.

In the interviews, some pointed out the importance of cautioning oneself against all dangerous situations instead of taking them lightly. However experienced you may be, you should refrain from dangerous and reckless flights.

Be aware that you may do something careless or make errors at any moment, be sure to conduct periodic checks and prior confirmation, and try to take action as soon as possible instead of ignoring any abnormalities or anxiety you may notice during the flight. Such attitude of each pilot will lead to preventing aircraft accidents.

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to the people from the Japan Flying Association and the AOPA-JAPAN who kindly responded to our interviews and offer our best wishes for their further success.

A Tip from the Director for Analysis, Recommendation and Opinion

This report features the increase in accidents involving private small aircraft and gliders. Accidents are often caused by pilots who have certain flight experience. The interviewees from groups of aircraft lovers all pointed out the fact that those becoming familiar with piloting are more dangerous and emphasized the significance of sharing information and experience among peers instead of becoming overconfident.

If you do not have peers, why don't you participate in safety seminars? Having friends with the same interest will increase your fun and improve flight safety at the same time.

We welcome your comments on "JTSB Digests" and requests for dispatching lecturers

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