



BONE-HEAD

Attitudes!



A Student or Pilot's death is always a tragedy, especially since the majority of these accidents can be avoided by using some common sense and following the rules

In November of 2008, a student pilot flying out of Castle airport near Merced California was killed because of his inability to follow the rules or accept responsibility for his actions. He paid the ultimate price, but a purchase that can help the rest of us in his unfortunate absence.

Instead of following the rules, this student pilot allowed another student to fly with him during a solo cross country flight. They both knew that they were not allowed to do this as the FAA regulations specify, but they decided not to follow these rules.

Upon returning from their flight and worried that one or both of them would be caught by an approaching fuel truck, they both abandoned their airplane with the engine still running. One of the students tried to get back into the airplane when he hit the Propeller and died, hopefully, instantly.

What can we learn from this?

The rules are here for a reason, and if you break a rule, admit your mistake and learn from it. Believe it or not, the FAA is very understanding of mistakes made by students and would rather see a student learn from their mistakes than leave aviation completely or even worse, die in an effort to hide their mistakes. Follow the rules and live to fly again.

Bad Attitudes

Anti-Authority

This is the attitude that killed this pilot. The antidote? Follow the rules, they are usually right. Smarter people than you or I came up with these rules and for good reasons

Impulsivity

We at Ahart Aviation know that some of our students are here from other country's and want to go home as quickly as they can. But hurrying or getting around the rules is very dangerous. The antidote? Not so fast, think first and take your time.

Invulnerability

Some of you may be thinking "This won't happen to me". This is the essence of feeling invulnerable. Yes, it CAN happen to you! Don't take chances - an airplane can easily kill.

Macho

When it comes to the power of an airplane, the pilot will ALWAYS loose if they try to fight or disrespect this power plant. The antidote? Taking chances is foolish - don't take chances!

Resignation

Even if something is not working correctly, you can always do something to help the situation. This accident was not because of resignation, but because of the other bad attitudes in this article. You are not helpless - You can make the right decision.