

# Alaska Flying: Surviving Incidents and Accidents in the Last Frontier

Alaska, with its vast and unforgiving wilderness, poses unique challenges and risks for aviators. The state has a long history of flying incidents and accidents, some with tragic outcomes. However, there are also stories of survival and resilience, lessons learned, and strategies that can help pilots and passengers increase their chances of making it through an emergency.



## Alaska Flying: Surviving Incidents & Accidents

by Jake Jacobson

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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## The Dangers of Alaska Flying

There are several factors that contribute to the risks of flying in Alaska. One is the state's sheer size and remote location. Alaska is the largest state in the United States, with a land area of over 665,000 square miles. Much of this land is uninhabited and inaccessible by road, making it difficult for pilots to reach help in the event of an emergency.

Another factor is Alaska's weather. The state is known for its extreme and unpredictable weather conditions, which can change rapidly. Fog, snow, ice, and high winds are all common hazards for pilots flying in Alaska.

Finally, Alaska's terrain is also a challenge for aviators. The state is home to some of the highest mountains in North America, as well as glaciers, rivers, and lakes. These features can make it difficult for pilots to navigate and find safe landing spots in the event of an emergency.

### **Notable Incidents and Accidents**

There have been numerous flying incidents and accidents in Alaska over the years. Some of the most notable include:

- The crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 in 2000, which killed all 88 passengers and crew on board.
- The crash of Wien Air Alaska Flight 99 in 1997, which killed all 12 passengers and crew on board.
- The crash of ValuJet Flight 592 in 1996, which killed all 110 passengers and crew on board.
- The crash of Reeve Aleutian Airways Flight 8 in 1983, which killed all 10 passengers and crew on board.
- The crash of Northern Consolidated Airlines Flight 185 in 1972, which killed all 18 passengers and crew on board.

### **Lessons Learned**

The tragic events of these incidents and accidents have led to important lessons being learned about flying in Alaska. One of the most important

lessons is the importance of proper planning and preparation. Pilots should always be aware of the risks involved in flying in Alaska and should take steps to mitigate those risks.

Another important lesson is the importance of maintaining situational awareness. Pilots should always be aware of their location and the weather conditions around them. They should also be prepared to make decisions quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

Finally, pilots should always be prepared for the unexpected. Even the most experienced pilots can encounter unexpected situations in Alaska. By being prepared for the unexpected, pilots can increase their chances of surviving an incident or accident.

## **Strategies for Survival**

In the event of an emergency, there are several strategies that pilots and passengers can use to increase their chances of survival. These strategies include:

- **Stay calm and focused.** It is important to remain calm and focused in the event of an emergency. This will allow you to think clearly and make good decisions.
- **Follow emergency procedures.** Pilots and passengers should always follow the emergency procedures that are outlined in the aircraft's flight manual.
- **Communicate with authorities.** If possible, pilots should communicate with air traffic control or other authorities to report the emergency and request assistance.

- **Land the aircraft safely.** If possible, pilots should attempt to land the aircraft safely. This may not always be possible, but it is always worth trying.
- **Evacuate the aircraft quickly.** If the aircraft cannot be landed safely, pilots and passengers should evacuate the aircraft quickly and move away from the wreckage.

By following these strategies, pilots and passengers can increase their chances of surviving an incident or accident in Alaska.

Flying in Alaska presents unique challenges and risks. However, by being aware of these risks and by taking steps to mitigate them, pilots and passengers can increase their chances of making it through an emergency. By following the strategies outlined in this article, pilots and passengers can be prepared for the unexpected and increase their chances of survival.



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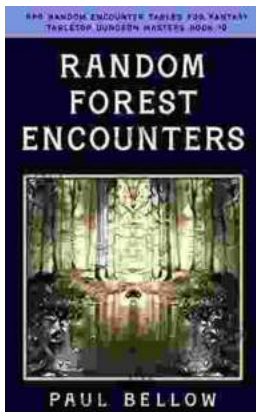
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