

Preflight Briefings

New England Soaring Association



How do you brief for a flight?

- What content items do you get?
- Where do you get them?
- Why do you include what you do?



How do you brief for a flight?

- What content items do you get?
- Where do you get them?
- Why do you include what you do?
- Does your briefing content meet regulatory requirements?



What are you required to include?

Part 91, § 91.103 states:

"Each pilot in command shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight."



What are you required to include?

Part 91, § 91.103 states:

"Each pilot in command shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight. **This information must include—**

- (a) For a flight under IFR *or a flight not in the vicinity of an airport*, **weather reports and forecasts**, fuel requirements, **alternatives available if the planned flight cannot be completed**, and any known traffic delays of which the pilot in command has been advised by ATC;
- (b) For any flight, **runway lengths at airports of intended use, and the following takeoff and landing distance information:**
 - (1) For civil aircraft for which an approved Airplane or Rotorcraft Flight Manual containing takeoff and landing distance data is required, the takeoff and landing distance data contained therein; and
 - (2) For civil aircraft other than those specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, **other reliable information appropriate to the aircraft, relating to aircraft performance under expected values of airport elevation and runway slope, aircraft gross weight, and wind and temperature.**



What are you required to include?

OK – Wx/forecasts, Alternates (runway lengths, elevation, slope) & your aircraft performance but what about

"all available information concerning that flight".

Any Guidance on that?

AC 91-92 - Pilot's Guide to a Preflight Briefing



AC 91-92

- Lot of good info
 - lots of good resources/links
- Use Flight Service/1-800-Wx-Brief
 - Much of the required info directly available
 - Puts your briefing “on-record”

APPENDIX B. SAMPLE PREFLIGHT CHECKLIST

B.1 Outlook Briefing Elements (more than 6 hours until departure). Check for reported or forecast meteorological or aeronautical conditions that might influence or alter the proposed flight.

- ☐ Weather advisories (SIGMET, AIRMET, convective SIGMETs, CWAs, and Aviation Watch Notification Messages)
- ☐ Synopsis (type, location, and movement of weather systems and/or air masses)
- ☐ En route and destination forecast (alternate if needed)
- ☐ NOTAMs (e.g., airport/runway closures, air traffic delays, and TFRs)

B.2 Standard Briefing Elements.

- ☐ Adverse conditions (e.g., weather advisories, low-level wind shear, thunderstorms, icing, and frontal zones)
- ☐ Synopsis
- ☐ Current weather
- ☐ En route, destination, and alternate forecasts
- ☐ Winds aloft
- ☐ NOTAMs, TFRs, and PIREPs
- ☐ P40 (Camp David) and P56 (Washington DC); Washington, DC SFRA (if applicable)
- ☐ ATC delays

B.3 Abbreviated Briefing Elements (update on changes, up to 2 hours prior to flight).

- ☐ Check updates to adverse conditions (reported or forecast) along the route of flight
- ☐ Check for any changes in meteorological and aeronautical conditions

B.4 Non-Weather-Related Checklist Items.

- ☐ IMSAFE
- ☐ PAVE
- ☐ Personal minimums
- ☐ Fuel requirements
- ☐ Alternate airports
- ☐ Traffic delays
- ☐ Takeoff and landing distance information for airports
- ☐ Aircraft performance items (e.g., airport elevation, runway slope and conditions, and Weight and Balance)
- ☐ RAIM check



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Briefing Type	Value	Time Frame
Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides weather information that is available in advance • For planning purposes when departure is 6 hours or more from the time of the briefing • Gives you an indication of which weather elements may be a factor for your flight 	6–48 hours before flight
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a complete and detailed depiction of the weather elements for the intended flight • Pilot will have a clear indication of the weather-related risk factors for the flight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 6 hours of flight • Can be obtained multiple times for flights during dynamic weather
Abbreviated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides pilots with updated information for specific weather elements • Focuses on the more dynamic weather elements that may have changed since the standard weather briefing was obtained • Helps pilots focus on the specific risk areas for the intended flight in an efficient manner • Allows pilots to be proactive in reacting to changing weather while in flight 	As soon as practical before flight

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- ☐ En route and destination forecast (alternate if needed)
- ☐ NOTAMs (e.g., airport/runway closures, air traffic delays, and TFRs)

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1-800-Wx Brief

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[Flight Service - 1800wxbrief.com](http://1800wxbrief.com)



Soaring Wx Planning

For another day..

Soaring Specific Tools:	General Tools:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>XC Skies</u>• <u>Skysight</u>• Soaringmeteo• Others?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>NWS Hourly graph</u>• <u>Aviation Weather Center</u>• <u>Windy</u>• <u>Pivotal Weather</u>• Others?