



## Safety Brief:

### Emergency procedure when door opens in flight



By Bill Cox, CFII

A cabin door popping open just after takeoff can be a very distracting event and has been the cause of several accidents.

The natural pilot action is to attempt to get the door closed as soon as possible, and this is exactly the wrong thing to do.

The most important thing is to maintain aircraft control. In my experience, it is almost impossible to get an open door closed in flight, so don't get distracted trying.



In most airplanes, the door will only open a few inches as there is a lot of airflow preventing it from opening too far. There may be some slight loss of performance but aircraft control should not be a problem. If your POH has a procedure, follow it. In general, avoid high speeds, and return and land using normal procedures.

In the worst case scenario, it is possible (but not probable) that the door could come off and hit something on the tail. This is a very low probability, but that could cause controllability problems. So there is good reason to maintain aircraft control and keep the speed from becoming excessive.

So if this happens to you, give up on the idea of getting the door closed. Return and land, and close the door on the ground."



By Ron Richey

Ron is taking a vacation from his column this month – gone flying. He will return in our May Newsletter.



## Commander's Column:

### Folsom Dam: Sacramento guardian

Can you identify the highest structure in Sacramento County? It's the lookout point on Folsom Dam!

Did you know there was another Dam in Folsom before the current Dam?

If you are like me and curious about Folsom Dam and its history, every time you drive by it? Then you are in luck because we will get a private tour of the Dam April 20<sup>th</sup> as part of our monthly Squadron meeting.

Directly below the dam is the Folsom Power plant. Its three generators produce 198,207 kilowatts of power. Each year Folsom Dam prevents potential flooding downstream from winter storms and spring snow runoff. The Folsom Dam is a very unique structure.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Safety of Dams Program determined the risk of flooding in the Sacramento area made it one of the most at-risk communities in the United States.

So, security is a big concern and that is where SSD comes in – with its Folsom Dam Security Bureau.

Under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento Sheriff's Office provides 24/7 security at the Dam.

After 2001 terrorist attacks, the Bureau analyzed potential targets for vulnerability and measures that could be taken to eliminate or reduce possible threats.

With 500,000 residents in the vicinity of the Folsom Dam, the possibility of an attack on the dam was great enough concern for Bureau officials to close Folsom Dam Road. The road over the dam had been a major artery for the city of Folsom. With its closure, traffic became severely congested during rush hour.



The impact was so great that residents and city officials petitioned the federal government to reconsider the road closure, which the government initially considered. Continued security concerns prevented them from re-opening the road and a new bridge, named Folsom Lake Crossing, was constructed opening on March 28, 2009.

**Due to the security at Folsom Dam, each Squadron member is required to check-in with our Vice Commander, Doug Hunting, no later than April 12th if you would like to join our tour.**

**Please email Doug Hunting [vicecommander@sacairsquadron.com](mailto:vicecommander@sacairsquadron.com) or call his cell (916) 826-8964 to add your name to the Folsom Dam Tour list by April 12, 2022.**

**Special Information for our Folsom Dam tour April 20th:** There is some moderate to strenuous walking involved, so wear good walking shoes. If you would like to walk to the bottom of the Dam, be prepared for approximately 150 steps.

There are rest areas for those that do not wish to walk the entire tour. Be advised that no photos are allowed at the Dam. Also, the tour will last approximately 2-hours and you may want to bring a light jacket due to cooler temperatures at base of dam.

Arrive at our Rally Point 7755 Folsom-Auburn Road, April 20th, 4:30 pm. We will meet and park at the Folsom Sector Office Parking Lot 7755 Folsom-Auburn Road (From Folsom-Auburn Road, turn on to Folsom Dam Road towards the Dam).

These pictures show the drive up to the Rally Point parking lot 7755 Folsom-Auburn Road.



*Let's fly.*

**Ken Lux, Commander**