



Airfreddy's Flying Stories

Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From

Story#8: A Bad Day In The Runup Area

BAD DAY IN THE RUNN UP AREA: This was an accident that happened a long time ago on my Home Airport. I was out in the run-up area with a student and we were going thru our checklist when the controller came over the radio. “Cessna ----- we just closed the airport, a plane just crashed at the end of 04R”. This was the opposite runway than the one in use, but the pilot had declared an emergency and decided to use the opposite runway. No problem with that.

I looked toward the end of the run way and there it was nose straight down in the dirt. My student wasn't up for flying and the airport was closed, so we went back to the hanger. As usual I called my buddy in the tower to find out what happened.

The pilot had an engine failure in the pattern and declared an emergency. He chose the runway and set up an approach. He came in a little high but would have made it, but about the time the pilot was leveling off, the engine started to sputter. So the pilot tried to do a go around and the engine quit again. This time the plane was at a very high nose up attitude and the plane stalled right off the end of the runway, nose first into the ground. Luckily the pilot and his four year old daughter did make it.

So this is a perfect example of why you **COMMITTO LAND**. When you commit to land you shut everything off and fly the plane.



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