

Concepts from the *Accident Prevention Manual for Glider Pilots*  
(Thomas Knauff and Doris Grove)

**Premise**

- Accidents occur not because of one bad decision, but because of a chain of decisions
- breaking the bad decision chain **early on** is easiest
- breaking the bad decision chain **at any point** greatly improves your odds

**1. Searching and Finding Bad Decisions**

- This is a constant process
- Requires feedback from the three variables of PILOT, AIRCRAFT, and ENVIRONMENT
- Knowledge helps one realize a problem is occurring. The more you know the better your ability to spot problems/potential problems early on.
- Types of poor decisions/actions:
  1. DO: pilot **did something** that should not have been done
  2. NO DO: pilot **did not do** something that should have been done
  3. Under DO: didn't do enough
  4. Over Do: did too much
  5. Early Do: acted too early
  6. Late Do: acted too late

**2. Check for and Reduce Stress**

- Obviously, high stress reduces your IQ and judgement
- Recognize it and reduce it before trying to solve problems
- Knauff has a chapter that discusses stress

**3. Solve Problem**

- There is usually more than one solution
- The more you know the better your ability to pick the most appropriate solution.

**4. Review Causes**

- What were you thinking?
- talk about it with others – share your learnings
- make a note of it for your own future reference
- The booklet has a “hazardous thinking” self-assessment test. Take it to discover your tendency for “hazardous thoughts”
  1. Anti-authority – “Don't tell me”
  2. Impulsivity – “Do something quickly”
  3. Invulnerability – “It won't happen to me”.
  4. Macho – “I can do it:
  5. Resignation – “What's the use?”

**Final Thoughts**

- Safety is an attitude. Using the decision chain technique helps you put an attitude to work.
- When you are flying, use the Decision Chain technique on yourself. When you're on the ground, use it on yourself BUT it's appropriate to help others understand the Decision Chain technique by critiquing their actions and intervening with helpful suggestions.
- Use the technique at all times to ensure the safety of all operations at Sky Soaring.

### Breaking the Poor Decision Chain

