

Free Calculator

an educational tool for

Engine Failure and Return to Airport

Presented by **Dr. George Bolon**

With Corps Members

Reed Niederkorn Scott Sloan Nigel Smith

Special Thanks to:

210 Degrees

Minneapolis FAAST Team

Nick Halatsis

Troy Siekas



WHY DEVELOP A CALCULATOR TO SIMULATE A RETURN TO THE RUNWAY AFTER POWER FAILURE?

> SAFETY <

Our Flight Goals Are:

1. No individual is injured
2. We accomplish the purpose of the flight

**... By Increasing the Pilot's
Knowledge, Understanding,
Skills and Decision Making
for Single Engine Failure on
Take Off**

PERSONAL THOUGHTS...

THREE CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS for PILOTS

- I. An Intimate Knowledge of your Business
- II. An Attitude of:
 - a. Continual Skepticism;
 - b. Situational/Positional Awareness;
 - c. Choosing the Most Conservative Approach
- III. The Development and Use of Effective Standard Operating Procedures; **THE COMPANY MANUAL**

Author's Note

I. Remember you as Pilot in command must:

1. Know what you want or are asked to do
2. Have a Plan or Series of Steps on how to Accomplish #1
3. And, **KNOW** you can do it - if you have a doubt,
DON'T TRY TO DO IT.

II. Cross Country Flights are made on the Ground Prior to Takeoff.

III. The Best Safety Component of an Aircraft is a
PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED PILOT

IN OUR VIEW, THE BEST SAFETY COMPONENTS OF AN AIRCRAFT ARE:

- I. A Professionally Trained Pilot
- II. Harnesses for the Occupants

4 point Harness



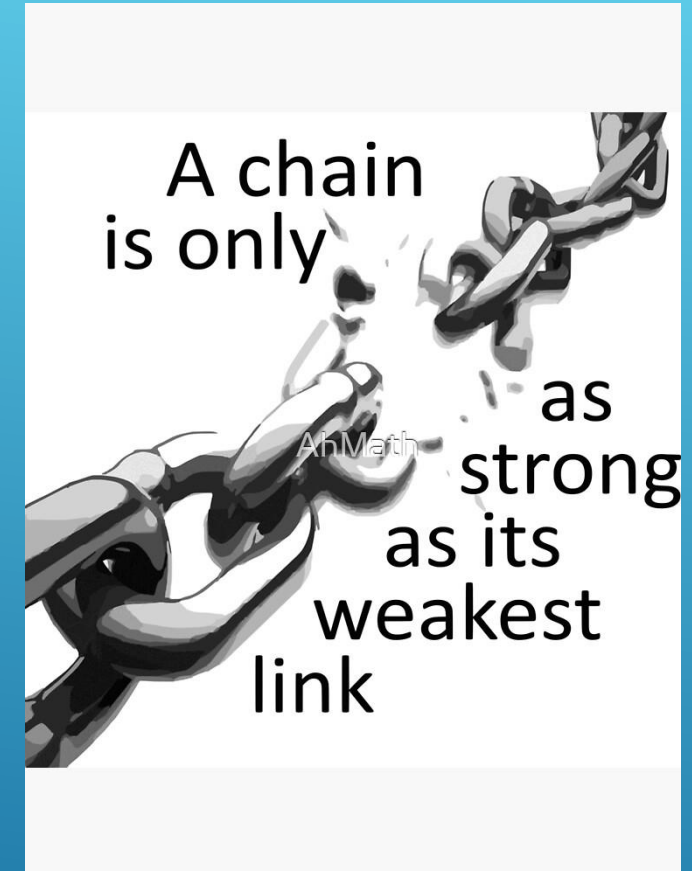
3 point harness w/ Airbag



STEPS FOR GO/ NO-GO DECISION FOR A RETURN TO THE RUNWAY

210 Degrees

- I. Use of the Calculator to determine minimum and maximum critical altitudes
- II. Compliance with pre-takeoff PILOT BRIEF
- III. Ground and Simulator Training to increase Pilot's knowledge and skills
- IV. You may wish to do validation testing at a "safe altitude" (We utilize 3,000' AGL)



What causes power plants to fail?

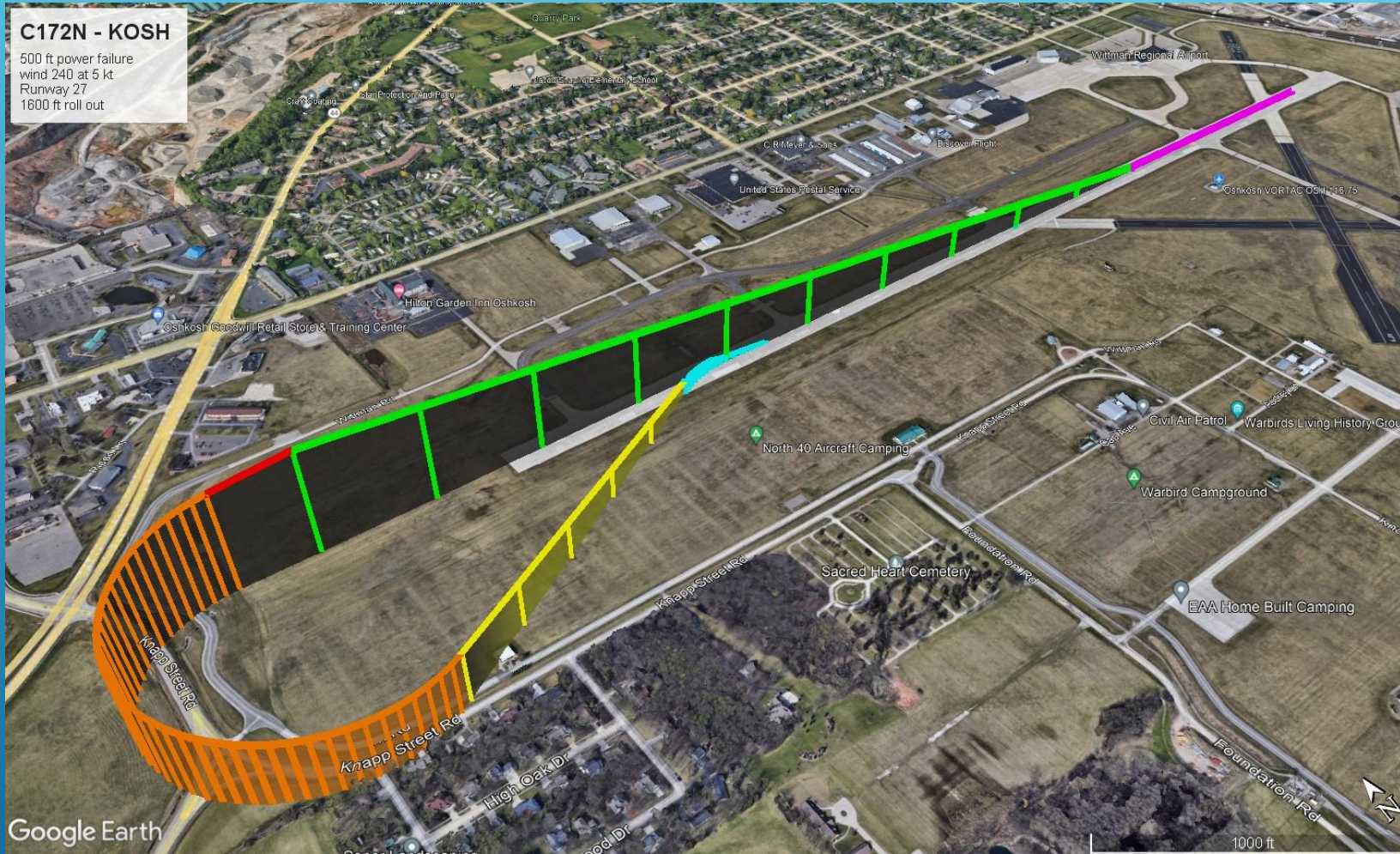
210 Degrees

Lack of:

- Air
- Fuel
- Ignition

WHY 210° OF TURN?

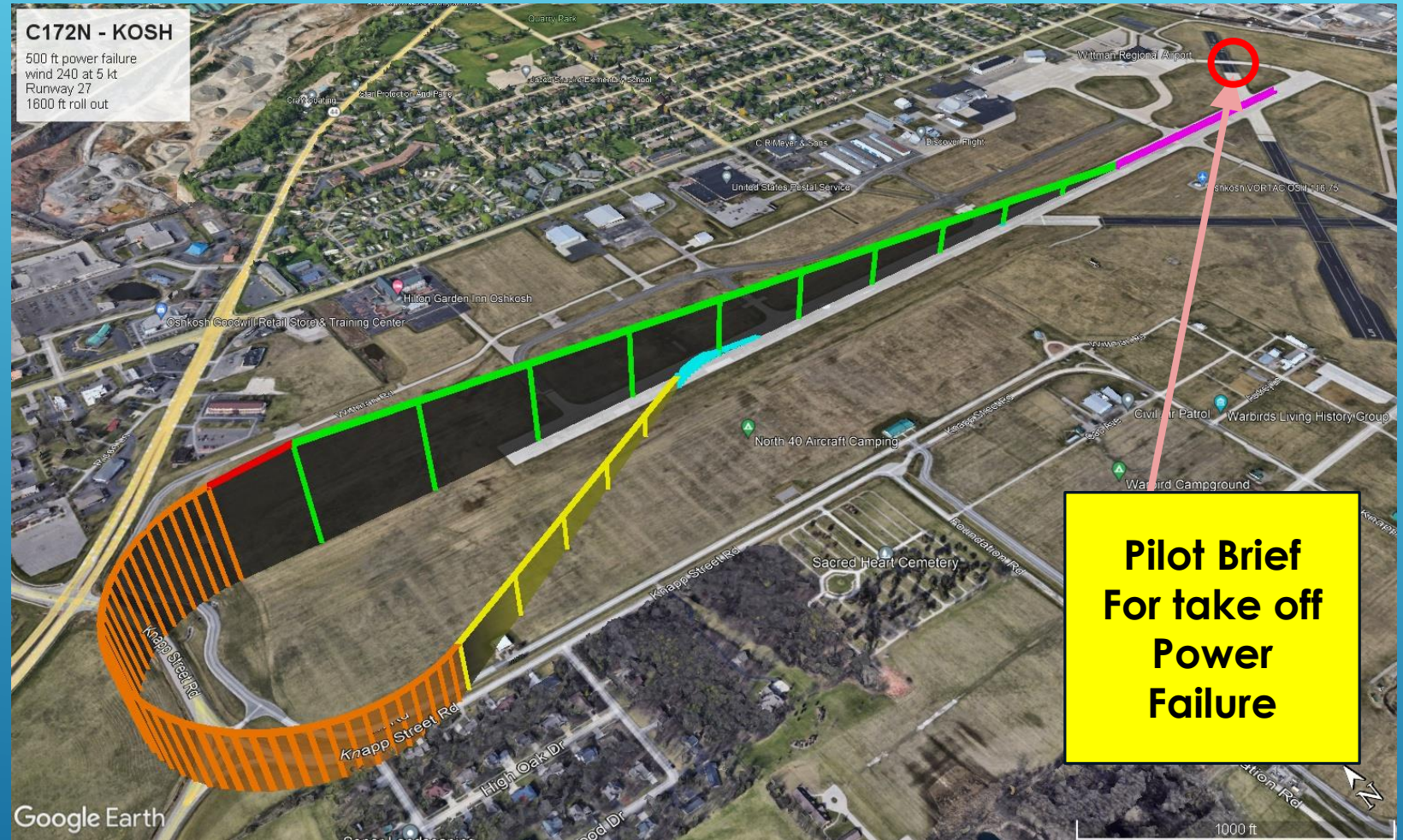
210 Degrees



SEGMENTS OF A RETURN TO THE RUNWAY

210 Degrees

- 1) Pilot Brief
- 2) Takeoff Roll
- 3) Climb Out
- 4) Time Delay after Power Failure
- 5) Primary Turn
- 6) Glide Back
- 7) Align with Runway and Land



CALCULATOR DEMONSTRATIONS

CALCULATOR TAKEAWAYS: TAKE OFF ROLL AND CLIMB OUT

210 Degrees

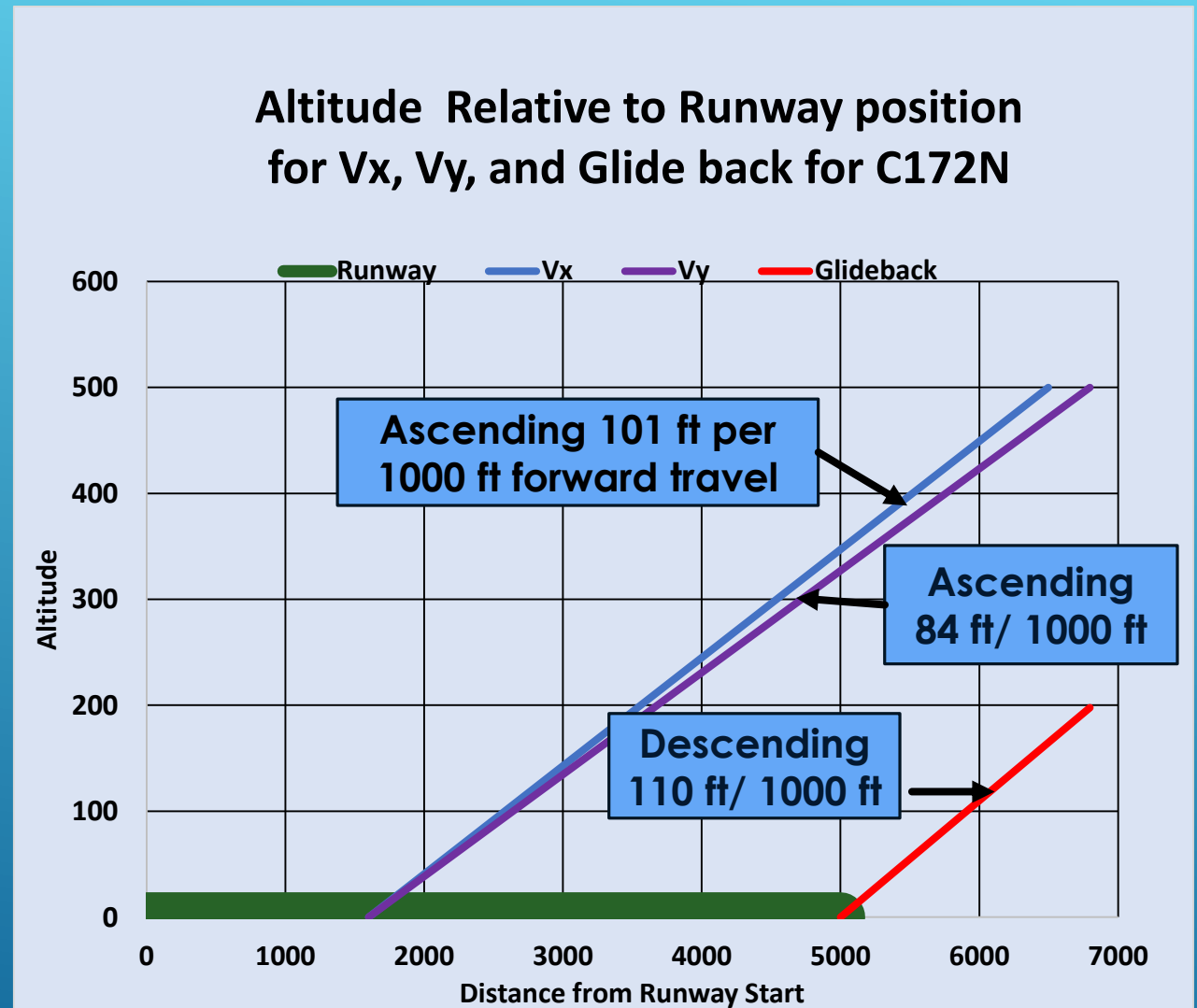
- I. Start roll as close to beginning of runway as possible
- II. Accelerate Smoothly
- III. Climb Out between V_x and V_y
- IV. Climb at V best glide if that speed is between V_x and V_y to reduce load on Pilot if engine loss occurs



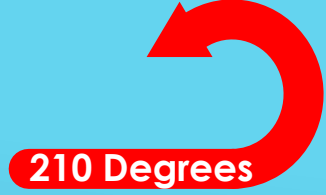
CLIMB OUT- WHY IS CLIMB SPEED SO IMPORTANT?

210 Degrees

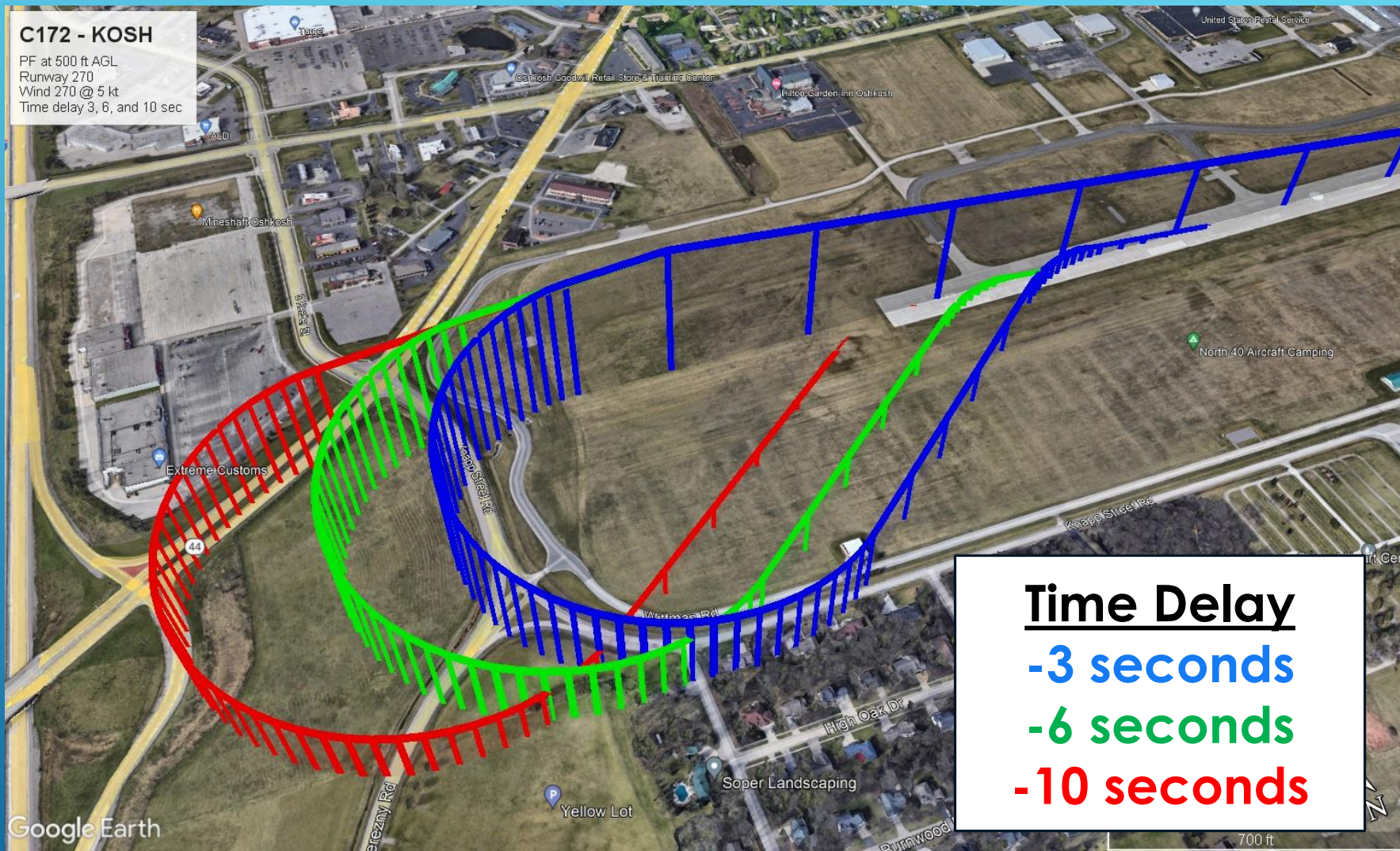
- I. Objective is to gain as much altitude as possible while staying as close to runway end as possible.
- II. Best angle of climb (Vx) is usually the best target.
- III. Glide back flight deck pitch angle is generally greater than Vx or Vy for aircraft with fixed landing gear.
- IV. Note: In most cases, a longer climb time results in lower chance to return to runway due to distance.
- V. And for many aircraft, above some maximum altitude, you can no longer make it back to the runway due to distance.



TIME DELAY AFTER POWER FAILURE (PF) AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO MAKING IT BACK



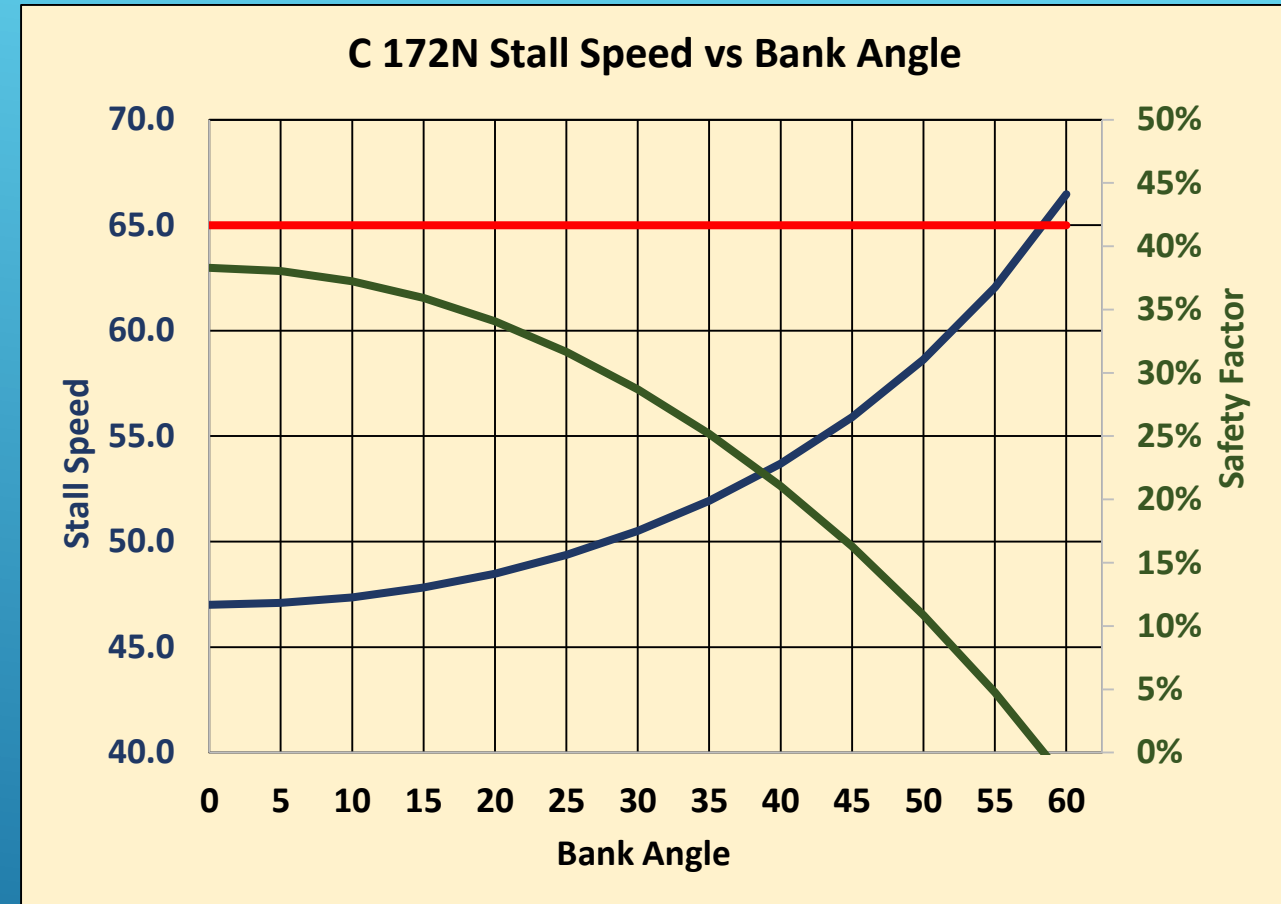
- I. For every second the pilot waits to turn back to the runway, the aircraft is more than 100 ft farther away from the runway and loses more altitude.
- II. For this case, more than a 7 second delay results in the pilot not being able to return to the runway surface.
- III. How long should a pilot nurse a failing engine before making the decision to turn back, or go straight ahead and look for a place to land? **IN MY OPINION, NEVER.**



What should the bank angle be in the turn?

210 Degrees

- I. Stall speed increases with bank angle (G Loading) so we must choose carefully to avoid the possibility of an accelerated stall/spin.
- II. Goal is to maintain “Best Glide” speed all the way to the ground fighting one’s natural tendency to pull back when we see the ground coming up at us.
- III. In this case of a 35 degree bank we have a 25% stall safety factor.
- IV. If we would increase the bank to 55 degrees, now safety factor of only 6%!



Best Glide

Angle of Bank

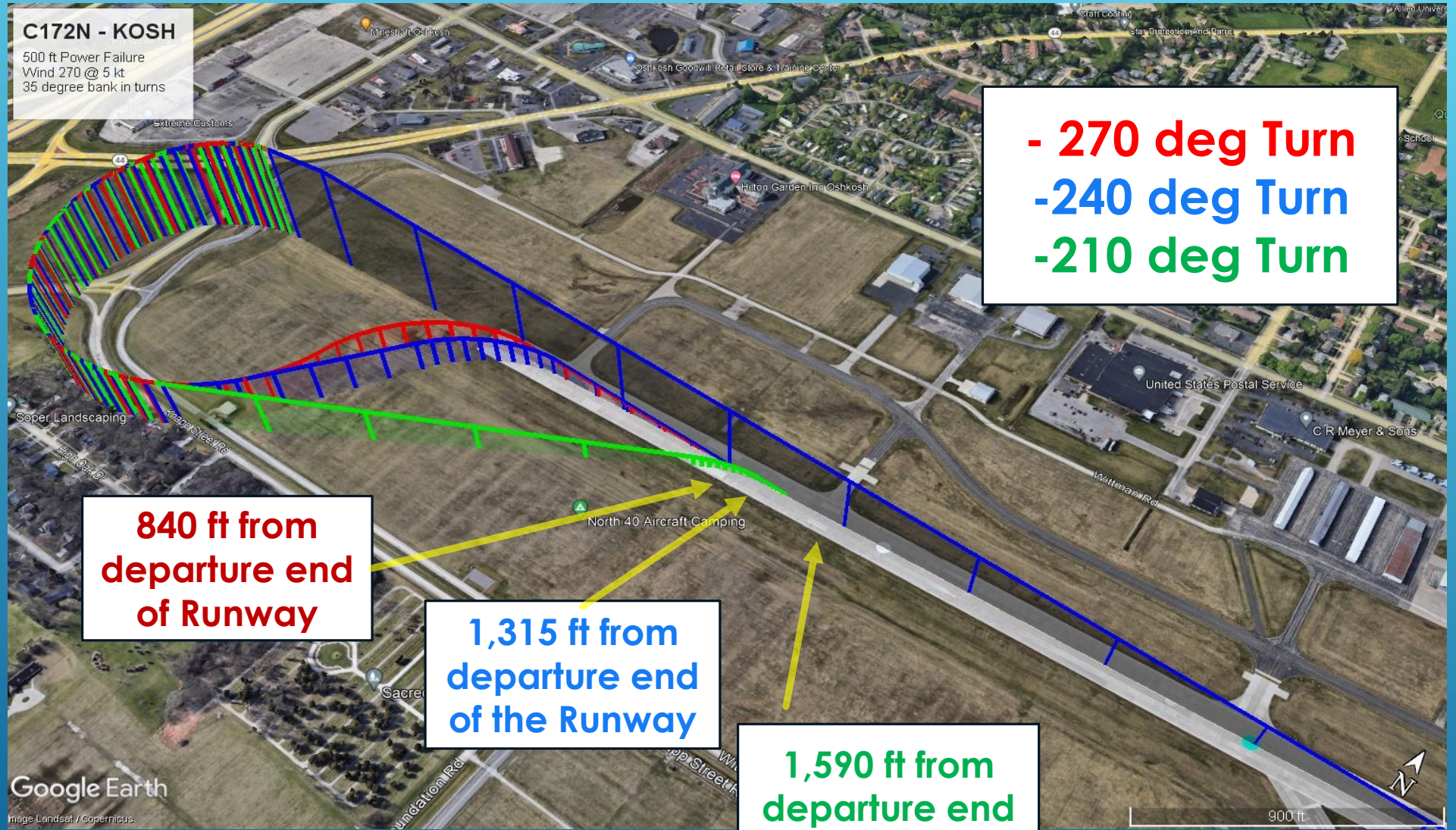
Stall Speed

WHAT SHOULD THE PRIMARY TURN ANGLE BE?

210 Degrees



- I. Since 240 and 270 degree turns are nearly identical in glide path length and altitude loss, there is no good reason to ever turn beyond 240 degrees
- II. Minimum runway length for return to runway is less for 210 degree turn
- III. Return path length and altitude loss are substantially greater for turns less than 210 degrees



HOW TURN ANGLE AFFECTS ALTITUDE LOSS AND TOUCHDOWN POINT

210 Degrees



- Turn Angle has two primary effects:
 - 1) Altitude loss during glide back to runway;
 - 2) Distance gliding back toward runway.
- For shorter runway lengths smaller turn angles are important:
 - However, you need enough turn angle to get back to runway center line.
- Balancing altitude loss and distance back toward runway, turn angles less than 210 deg and greater than 240 deg. are very questionable.

Turn Angle (deg)	Altitude Loss after PF (ft)	Distance Flown Back toward Runway (ft)
190	908	5273
200	574	2132
210	472	1108
220	428	616
230	406	338
240	396	171
250	392	71
260	391	17
270	391	0

FOCUS AREAS FOR GLIDE BACK AND LANDING

210 Degrees

- I. As soon as the Primary Turn is completed **on Instruments**, now look outside and visually assess whether you require up to 30 additional degrees.
- II. Maintain Airspeed (V_{bg}) and Heading.
- III. Resist temptation to pull back on the yolk as the ground is coming up at you.
- IV. **Maintain Best Glide until the Wheels/Skin SQUEAK.**

Pilots view after a 210 degree primary turn is complete

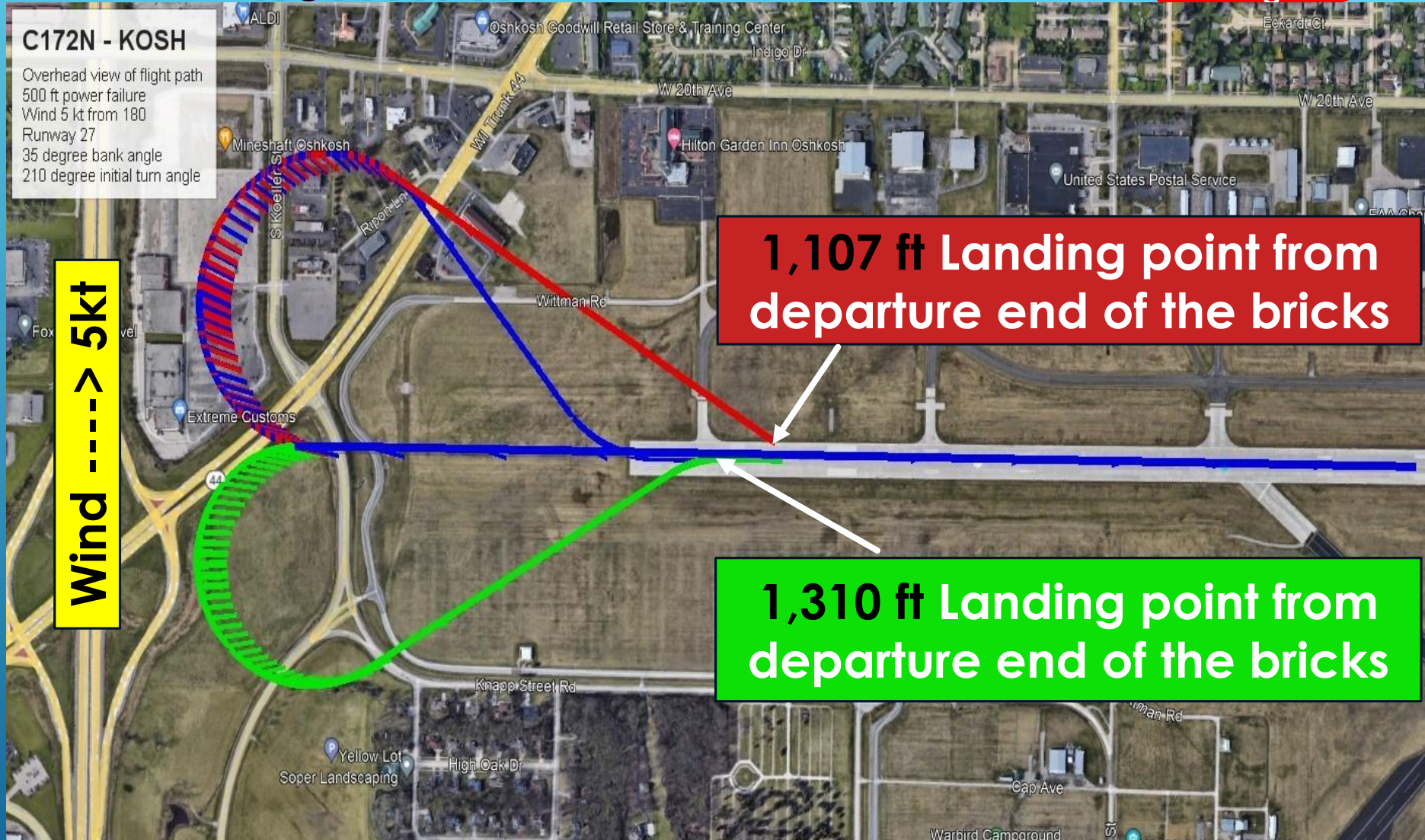


EFFECT OF CROSS-WIND ON RETURN PATH TO RUNWAY

210 Degrees

If you make your turn with the wind as in the case in **RED**, you could find it difficult to get back to the runway centerline

Turning into the wind (**GREEN** case) makes it a bit easier to get back to the runway



EFFECT OF HEADWIND VELOCITY COMPONENT

210 Degrees

- ▶ Wind increases climb angle before PF
- ▶ Wind decreases glide angle after PF
- Short runways may make runway return impossible without headwind
- Do not overestimate wind at BRIEF

C172 - KOSH

510 ft power failure
35 bank angle
210 degree turn angle
Wind 270 at 0, 5, and 10 kt

Wind 0 kt →
Wind 5 kt →
Wind 10 kt →

1,204 ft

1,703 ft

2,670 ft

Landing points from
departure end of the Bricks

PILOT BRIEF FOR CESSNA 172N

210 Degrees

Note:
If the Pilot Brief is omitted and you experience a Power Failure on take off; ... Go Straight Ahead +/- 30 degrees at best glide and find a landing site.

More on why later.

* Example of a Captain's VFR Brief:

"This shall be a Standard Company Max Power VFR Brake Release (On the Roll) Takeoff from Runway ____ at _____ above all Landing Minimums. If we have any Un-Briefed Anomalies Prior to Liftoff (V1) We Shall Reject the Takeoff. For An Engine Failure, Catastrophic Loss of Directional Control or a Wildlife Strike that results in a Catastrophic Loss of Directional Control; below 500 ft. (AGL); _____ MSL; We Shall Land Straight Ahead +/- Thirty (30) Degrees Maintaining Best Glide Speed of **65** KIAS until the Wheels Squeak. If we are VFR and above 500 ft (AGL); _____ (MSL) and Any of the Preceding Occurs or We have a **FIRE**; We shall make a 210 Degree Turn to the (left or right) into the wind at a Thirty Five (35) Degrees Angle of Bank, maintaining Best Glide Speed of **65** KIAS, for a Return to Runway _____, or Anywhere on the Airport Environment. If we have no issues our Clearance is Runway Heading in the Heading Mode to 400 ft (AGL); _____ (MSL) complete the 400 ft Checklist; engage the A/P (if applicable) and proceed via our Clearance/Flight Plan Route to _____ and Climb as Cleared /Instructed To _____. Do you have any questions or suggestions"

NOTE: 65 KIAS until the WHEELS SQUEAK

“BOLON METHOD” FOR CAPABILITY OF A TURN BACK TO THE RUNWAY

210 Degrees

- I. **Application of Calculator** to find the minimum and maximum critical altitudes;
- II. **Incorporating Calculator** information into “**PILOT BRIEF;**”
- III. **Ground and Simulator Training** to increase Pilot’s skills and competency;
- IV. “**At altitude**” **flight exercises** for real world Validation Testing;
- V. **Maintaining Focus** and **Best Glide (Vbg)** on all maneuvers necessary to return to the runway until the **wheels (or skin) squeak.**

▶ DO ME A FAVOR ◀

A SUMMARY OF HIGH POINTS:

210 Degrees

Density Altitude;

Reaction Time;

Runway Length;

Flying the Instruments through 210°;

High Performance Aircraft.

FREE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

210 Degrees

- I. 3 Critical Success Factors
- II. Go No-Go Decision
- III. Calculator User Manual
- IV. Calculator Program
- V. Before Take Off BRIEF
- VI. Reference Sources
- VII. Where to go to tell us how you thought we did



Where to get the FREE Calculator and Resources?

<https://www.twotendegrees.com>

THANK YOU FOR JOINING
US ALONG THE
YELLOW-BRICK
RUNWAY
Production