# **High Altitude Operations - Supplemental Oxygen**

## **Objective**

To ensure the applicant learns the physiological dangers of high altitude flight and the types of oxygen systems available, as well as their use and servicing.

### **Purpose**

Flying higher increases aircraft performance, but without proper precautions, it can be dangerous. Additionally, the FARs require pilots to use oxygen when operating at certain altitudes. This lesson introduces pilots to the dangers of hypoxia, the types of oxygen systems and their use, as well as the regulations requiring pilot use of oxygen.



Schedule	Equipment
<ul><li> Ground Lesson: 15 minutes</li><li> Student Q&amp;A: 10 minutes</li></ul>	Whiteboard / Markers (optional)
Student Actions	Instructor Actions
<ul> <li>Ask any questions, receive study material for the next lesson.</li> <li>Watch linked video.</li> <li>Review listed references.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Deliver the ground lesson (below).</li><li>Answer student questions.</li></ul>

### **Completion Standards**

- Student can explain the following concepts:
  - Dangers of hypoxia and hyperventilation, effects on vision, time of useful consciousness
  - Regulatory requirements for use of supplemental oxygen
  - The types of oxygen systems commonly used

#### References

- David Moran "High Altitude Hypoxia Flight Training"
  - YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CptmVSXnEfc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CptmVSXnEfc</a>
- FAA-H-8083-25C (Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge) Chapter 7, Page 37-40 [Oxygen Systems], Chapter 17, Page 3-5 [Hypoxia/Hyperventilation]
- FAA-S-ACS-7B (Commercial Pilot ACS) Area VIII Task A
- FAA-S-ACS-25 (CFI ACS) Area II Task N

#### **Ground Lesson Outline**

- Hazards of High Altitude Flight
  - Hypoxia Similar to drunkenness, confusion, etc. Can lead to loss of consciousness.
    - Hypoxic Hypoxia Not enough oxygen partial pressure, caused by high altitude
    - Hypemic Hypoxia Blood can't bind oxygen, usually CO poisoning
    - Histoxic Hypoxia Cells can't use oxygen, usually drugs/alcohol
    - Time of Useful Consciousness See supplement
  - Hyperventilation Sometimes occurs when breathing pure O2
  - Vision Impairment Especially at night, over 5,000 feet MSL.
- Supplemental Oxygen Systems
  - Regulatory requirements for use of oxygen § 91.211
    - >12,500 feet MSL and <= 14,500 more than 30 minutes Crew provided and uses oxygen
    - >14,000 feet MSL Crew provided and uses oxygen
    - >15,000 feet MSL Passengers provided oxygen
  - Importance of using only Aviator's Breathing Oxygen Pure, no moisture content (freezing danger)
  - Types of Systems
    - Mask vs. Cannula Cannula use is only allowed up to 18,000 feet MSL
    - Diluter-Demand Supply only when user inhales. Automix valve. Used up to 40,000 feet.
    - Pressure-Demand Similar to diluter-demand but oxygen under pressure over 34,000 feet.
    - Continuous Flow Usually provided to passengers, uses a reservoir/bag.
    - Electrical Pulse-Demand Detect users breathing and supplies only when inhaling. Saves oxygen.
  - Care and Storage of Oxygen Bottles, Servicing
  - o Pulse Oximeters

# **Ground Lesson Supplement**

Altitude	Time of Useful Consciousness
45,000 feet MSL	9 to 15 seconds
40,000 feet MSL	15 to 20 seconds
35,000 feet MSL	30 to 60 seconds
30,000 feet MSL	1 to 2 minutes
28,000 feet MSL	2½ to 3 minutes
25,000 feet MSL	3 to 5 minutes
22,000 feet MSL	5 to 10 minutes
20,000 feet MSL	30 minutes or more