

6b

Aerotow Emergency Procedures

Lesson Objective

Aerotow emergency procedures include: glider can not release, towplane can not release, towplane power failure (at various times in the flight), abort of take-off near the ground, rope breaks. During this lesson segment, the student will learn the tools of recovery from these situations.

Regulatory Requirement

- Pre-Solo: [§61.87\(i\)\(9\)](#)
- Private Pilot: [PTS](#) IV-G

Content

- Aerotow signals on the ground and in flight
- Towplane power failures or problems on takeoff and climb
- Inadvertent release on glider and/or towplane
- Tow line breaks
- Release failure for Glider and/or towplane

Completion Standards

Determine that the student

- Exhibits knowledge of the elements related to aerotow abnormal occurrences, for various situations, such as—
 - Towplane power failures or problems on takeoff and climb
 - Inadvertent release on glider and/or towplane
 - Tow line breaks
 - Release failure for Glider and/or towplane
- responds appropriately to simulated aerotow abnormal occurrences as required by the examiner.
- recognizes and responds to towplane power loss on takeoff or climb-out
- can successfully accomplish rope break recovery

The student must be able to explain

- all aerotow signals
- procedure for the double-release failure scenario (however unlikely)
- hazards of moving the glider too high on aerotow.

Simulator Practice

Complete lessons as detailed in the [Condor Lesson Plans](#)

- 13b Premature Tow Termination

Homework for Pre-Solo

- “Glider Flight Training Manual” by Thomas Knauff pages 117-125 and 259-272
- [SSF Flight Safety Videos](#) Premature Termination of the Tow
- [YouTube Video](#) -- Actual Canopy opening in flight and decision making process
- [SCOH Instruction Manual](#) - Emergency Procedures

Homework for Solo to Private

- [Glider Flying Handbook](#) (2013) -- “Aerotow Abnormal and Emergency Procedures” pages 8-8 through 8-13

Further Reading

- [CFIG Lesson Plan Notes](#) see 6b, 6f Aerotow Emergencies

Next Lesson: [6c -- Maneuvering Speed](#)

Previous Lesson: [6a -- Slack Line](#)

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