Overview

The FARs do not require passenger briefings for small aircraft operating under Part 91 beyond the location, use, and operation of seatbelts and shoulder harnesses (§91.107). However, Angel Flight East strongly recommends our pilots go beyond the minimum requirements. Drawing from the requirements for large aircraft operating under Part 91 (§91.51) and operations under Part 135 (§135.117) we recommend the following briefing items be covered with all passengers as a best practice.

Click here for a pocket briefing card for quick reference or as a template for a card specific to your aircraft.

Before Flight Briefing

Pilot in Command should brief passengers on:

- **Seatbelts:**
  - Brief passengers on how to fasten/unfasten seatbelts and, if installed, shoulder harnesses
  - Notify passengers that seatbelts, and if installed, shoulder harnesses, must be fastened before taxi, takeoff, and landing; make sure they’re secured, and explain that it is advisable to keep seatbelts latched during the flight
  - Secure approved child seats with seatbelts that do NOT have integrated airbags
- **Location and means of opening and closing doors and emergency exits (if so equipped)**
- **Location of survival equipment (if so equipped)**
- **Ditching procedures for flights over water**
- **Normal and emergency use of installed oxygen equipment**
- **Adjustment of seat position for takeoff and landing (if applicable)**
- **Location and operation of fire extinguishers**

Additional Briefing Items

Pilot in Command should consider including the following items as additional briefing items. These can be done before the flight, before boarding, or as part of the Before Flight Briefing as appropriate.

- Give an update on the weather forecast and expected flight conditions, including any changes to ETE
- Explain ramp safety, including dangers of spinning propellers, and escort your passengers to and from the aircraft
- Brief passengers on safe aircraft boarding and exiting procedures, including appropriate handholds and stepping areas
- Explain concept and need for a sterile cockpit, especially during takeoff and landing
  - Let your passengers know you may mute the intercom from time to time for uninterrupted ATC communication
Explain how the engine sound may change during climb, cruise, and descent, and that gear, flap, or speed brakes retraction/extension might make a brief noise or vibration.

Tell your passengers to let you know if they feel ill during the flight; often a change in altitude (avoiding turbulence) and cool/fresh air can help, otherwise you might adjust your flight to land as soon as practicable.

Ask whether your passengers have any questions?

Show the location of sick sacks.

For parachute equipped aircraft, explain to your passengers and assistant how to deploy the chute in case of an emergency.