Carburettor icing probability



Australian Government

Civil Aviation SafetyAuthority



- obtain the temperature and dew point
- calculate the difference between the two. This is the 'dew point depression'
- for example, if the temperature is 12°C () and the dew point is 2° the dew point depression will be 10°2
- for icing probability, refer to the shading legend appropriate to the intersection of the lines (3)
- for relative humidity, refer to the right hand scale 4



Carburettor icing fast facts



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- * Carburettored engines suffer most from icing because carburettors cause evaporation, which cools the air.
- * Carburettor icing can happen at temperatures of up to 38 degrees C. Paradoxically, it is less likely at very cold temperatures.
- * Carburettor icing is more likely at partial power settings because of the cooling effect of a partly-closed throttle butterfly.
- * Using a probability chart, along with wet- and dry-bulb temperatures, can be a good predictor of carburettor icing.
- * Carburettor heat should be applied fully in conditions where icing is likely. With icing, prevention is easier and more effective than cure.

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