

13

De-icing and Anti-icing Systems

ICE IS THE NEMESIS OF EVERY IFR PILOT. VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF IT are negative: It's capricious; it's fickle; should you climb, descend, turn back? The stakes are high, particularly for those who fly IFR in aircraft not certified for flight into known icing. A chance encounter with icing can produce drastic aerodynamic changes, propeller imbalance and vibration, increased drag, increased weight, and reduced airspeed. To fight back, general-aviation pilots can arm their aircraft with de-icing equipment.

It is crucial to understand that even though light general-aviation aircraft may be equipped with de-icing and anti-icing equipment, they are not intended to be flown for extended periods in known icing conditions. Rather, the intent of these systems is to give the pilot some options in situations where icing exists—for instance, an IFR descent through a layer of icing on an instrument approach. They are not designed to allow you to fly in icing conditions from Chicago to Los Angeles.