

Chapter One



Fig. 1-6. *DME antenna.* (Photo by author, courtesy of Frasca Air Services)

Preflight Considerations

Preflight considerations are very straightforward. They include security and cleanliness. When looking at individual antennae, check to be sure that the attachment to the airframe is secure, and if connections are visible, check their tightness. Essentially you are checking the general integrity of the antenna itself for cracks, distortion, or other obvious problems.

Dirt, grease, mud, and anything else that can cake on an antenna will degrade performance. This is particularly a problem with belly-mounted antennae, so they should be checked during preflight to assure cleanliness. If they are dirty, simply take a damp rag and wipe them clean. Any abnormal condition should be referred to an avionics technician.