

## FOD PREVENTION SAVES LIVES & MONEY

### WHAT DOES FOD MEAN TO A CESSNA PILOT, FRED HOBAUGHT

Everyday Fred Hobaught has the opportunity to fly aircraft never flown before. He stressed that FOD is a concern of all pilots. It does not take much to cause an engine to quit or a control surface to fail to operate properly. During flight, Fred has experienced annunciator warnings; these are lights in the cockpit that detect problems with the aircraft systems. On occasion the fuel filter bypass annunciator lights up, indicating a problem with the fuel system. During inspections it is not uncommon to find very small shavings of metal, clogging the filter. Fred's greatest FOD concerns are:

- 1) Wrenches; screwdrivers; drillbits left in by the assembly process that can get caught in control cables and pulleys.
- 2) Rag; tape; metal shavings inside the fuel cell that can cause the fuel pump to fail starving the engines of fuel.
- 3) Metal tools and hardware in and around the electrical areas which could cause shorts, arcing and instrument failures.

Fred loves his job as a Cessna pilot. It is our job to support Fred and his co-workers to ensure their problems in the sky are minimal. Forty thousand feet is not the place to pull a jet over to replace a fuel filter or lose the ability to turn right or left.