Fly Safe Campaign

Watch your fax or e-mail every other Monday in April, May, June and August and every Monday in July for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when increased flight activity warrants additional safety awareness.

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS
Don’t become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 3 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

COLLISIONS WITH OBSTACLES CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LIVES OF AGRICULTURAL AVIATORS

Two of the three accidents reported by the NTSB so far in 2020 are Controlled Flight Into Terrain Accidents (CFIT), including the one fatal accident. CFIT accidents include collision with the ground as well as obstacles attached to the ground, such as power poles, wires, towers, and trees. While the NTSB reports for these three accidents are not yet final, the objects struck include a tree and a metal bracket on top of power pole. From 2010 to 2019, 31% of all ag aviation accidents and 53 % of fatal ag aviation accidents were CFIT.

In many CFIT accidents, the obstacle struck by the ag aviator was a known object. For example, tower guy wires that were identified during the reconnaissance phase but then were lost track of during a pass. In other CFIT accidents, the obstacles, most often wires, were unseen by the pilot until the accident. In some of these cases, field scouting was not conducted adequately.

Scout all your fields thoroughly, even if you’ve recently sprayed them. If a particular obstacle bothers you, investigate it further, even if it means delaying the application. If someone else at your operation has flown a field before, ask them about obstacles and how they flew the field to avoid them. Do not let your desire to make money rush you – stay focused on the task at hand. Be wary of cockpit distractions and do not divert your attention while you are in a pass. The more distractions you have, the more likely you are to lose track of an obstacle.

Check Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)
Always check TFR NOTAMs before flying! Make sure you have proof of a preflight TFR briefing from sources such as FSS or https://www.1800wxbrief.com.

Make a “Fly Safe” Resolution Now!

To be removed from the “Fly Safe” fax list, please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org. Let us know if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all faxes or e-mails from the NAAA.