

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 12 ag accidents including 4 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 5 fatal accidents.

EMERGENCY FLY SAFE: FIVE FATAL ACCIDENTS ALREADY IN 2021 – KEEP AN EYE ON WIRES

There have already been 5 fatal ag accidents in 2021, 4 of which involved wire strikes. One of the nonfatal accidents was also a wire strike and another was a collision with a power line pole. From 2011-2020, there has been an average of 9 wire strike accidents a season, which is 14% of all ag accidents. On average 2 wire strikes are fatal every year, accounting for 16% of all fatal accidents. Wire strikes are Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) accidents. CFIT also includes collisions with towers, which claim an average of 1 life a season. Tower collision accidents are fatal 65% of the time.

PAASS recommends you review the [Wires and Obstructions](#) video available online from NAAREF which has many tips from other ag pilots on avoiding wire strikes. Inexperience, diverted attention, and complacency are leading factors related to wire strikes. Consider an emergency stand-down to watch now as an operation to learn from and discuss to keep these deadly contributors to accidents at bay. Complacency can occur on every job once you've completed enough work to get comfortable with the site. Remind yourself every pass there's a wire at the end of the field because "the ones you hit are the ones you forget." The sun and terrain can cause blind spots that make it even more difficult to spot wires so use helmet and cockpit visors to reduce glare and avoid making passes adjacent to wires when you are flying into the sun.

Circle every field before you begin the application to look for wires and other obstructions. Look for things that will likely signify the presence of wires, such as poles, roads, pump jacks, buildings, and anything else you think may have power. These objects are much easier to spot than a wire. The way the field has been worked by a farmer can also help you spot poles or guy wires, as there will be a visual indicator the farmer has worked around an obstacle. Set limits as to the work you're willing to do around wires and make extra clean up passes to ensure safety. No job is worth your life – don't be number six.

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!

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. 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.