

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 20 ag accidents including 6 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 7 fatal accidents.

OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SAFETY

Several of the recent fatal accidents have involved pilots with limited ag flying experience. The current shortage of pilots and the high demand for aerial applications can put pressure on operators to move pilots into aircraft they may not be ready to fly, or to work in difficult fields beyond their capabilities. In an earlier Fly Safe this season, PAASS stressed to pilots not to be overconfident in their abilities because they were assigned to fly a turbine early in their career. However, it is equally important that operators properly mentor new to low-time pilots in a safe manner. Pilots may not understand the dangers of being turned loose in a high-capacity turbine aircraft before they're ready for it, but operators should be aware.

If your pilot is apprehensive over the potential for fog or field obstacles, listen and heed their concerns. Do not push them to do work they are not yet ready to do. While they may express confidence in their abilities, it is your responsibility as their mentor to be the final judge of what they are ready for. Assign work at a pace appropriate for their experience and closely monitor their condition so that they don't become overwhelmed, both physically and mentally. Make sure you check the fields you're planning on assigning to them ahead of time to be sure they don't exceed their skills.

Observe your pilot's performance when it comes to flying safe, not just the acres they are getting done. Regularly communicate to them that their mission is to ensure every flight is accident free and the application for the customer is accurate, effective, and safe. Make sure they understand all aspects of the flight should be based on that mission. It is your responsibility to tell them that turning too tight and fast is dangerous and bragging about how fast they turn compared to other pilots is not safe. Operators are responsible for creating and maintaining a safety culture at their operation. An operator's concern might be getting as many acres treated as possible, due to their customers' demands, but remind yourself and your customers that a dead pilot and a wrecked aircraft are not productive. Make sure your pilots can Fly Safe and are Flying Safe. Know that their Flying Safely is **YOUR** top priority and that they know that too.

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.