

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 21 ag accidents including 3 fatal accidents so far this year. There have been 2 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 5 fatal accidents.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED FROM SAFETY

There are many items that require a pilot's attention during aerial application missions. These include tasks related to flying the aircraft, scouting for and avoiding obstacles, ensuring the application stays on target, and keeping track of all the work orders to be sprayed for the day. It can be very easy for a single item among these numerous tasks to begin to take an inordinate amount of your focus, causing you to forget about the other critical tasks that still require your attention. This can be further exasperated by other distractions not related to your mission, such as messages and calls on a cell phone, trying to take a photo or video for social media, or buzzing someone you know.

A real-life, distracting experience happened to an ag pilot that started a chain reaction of thoughts not directly related to the mission. While making an application, another pilot from his operation working nearby called on the radio to ask if he thought it was getting too windy to spray. This caused the pilot to start worrying more about the wind. This then switched to worrying about if they would need to shut down for the rest of the day, which then changed into worrying about how they were going to get all the current work orders done. He ceased worrying about those things when he flew into a power pole and wires (that he was aware of) while making a clean-up pass. When your mind is distracted, you sometimes forget about what's right in front of you.

Distractions can be especially plentiful during the busiest part of the season. An already full schedule, combined with additional work coming in at the last minute and concerns from customers as to when their crops will be treated can begin to overload a pilot's capacity to deal with the task at hand. To the best of the operation's ability, try to minimize exposure to these distractions to personnel who don't have a critical role in dealing with them directly. An operation may be thousands of acres behind, but a pilot can only spray so many acres in one day. Don't distract them with a problem they can't solve – help them focus on spraying one field at a time safely and avoid forgetting something critical.

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 and May and every Monday in June. July and August for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when additional safety awareness is warranted. 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.