

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 18 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 2 fatal accidents.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT A WIRE?

As we enter July it's important to remember to keep your focus on safety, and particularly avoiding wire strikes. Collisions with wires are a leading cause of ag aviation accidents. Wire strikes are not inevitable though – all accidents are preventable. You must remain vigilant throughout the flight for wires and other obstructions. Wires cannot be seen much of the time and thus must be treated as an invisible hazard. Instead of looking for the wires, you must read structures, hardware, and insulators to forecast a wires location.

Working against you is your short-term memory. As you learned in the 2022-2023 PAASS Program and have read in prior Fly Safes (we're repeating in case you forgot), the human brain can only hold about 5 to 9 thoughts in short-term memory at once. Once a new thought enters your brain, the oldest thought in your short-term memory gets pushed out to make room for the new thought. You recon your field before you begin the application which means the wires are at the front of your short-term memory. As you treat the field, other tasks and concerns enter your short-term memory. When you notice a car approaching on the road adjacent to your target field after you've made multiple passes, it's very possible that car can replace a wire in your short-term memory.

You may be reading this and scoffing at the idea that you could ever forget about a wire. But the statistics prove it happens and that experience offers no immunity. Of the 2022-2023 PAASS attendees who had a wire strike during their career, 68% indicated they were aware of the wire they hit. Of those who hit a wire, 12% did so with more than 10 years of experience; 41% had between 3 and 10 years of experience. Your life depends on you not forgetting about a wire. Sing a wire song, come up with a catchy phrase, or just mutter "wires" to yourself the whole time you are making an application. Whatever you do, don't forget about a wire.

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 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. Please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.