

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 5 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

DON'T LET DEMANDING CUSTOMERS TAKE YOUR FOCUS OFF SAFETY

This spring has been a wet one so far and that looks to continue as increasing temperatures begin to melt snow in the northern and western parts of the country. The wet ground and delayed start to planting result in a compressed season for growers who must scramble to accomplish their work in less time. This situation can often result in an increased demand for aerial applications. This demand, and the frequently short time frame in which growers want the work completed, quickly leads to stress on ag aviation operations at a time when pilots may not have fully acclimated to the season being back into full gear. All this can be a distraction that can cause you to take your mind off safety.

The pressure can also cause you to take risks you might normally not take. It is critical you stick to your personal minimums. Do not let a customer talk you into taking off in weather you're not comfortable flying in. When it comes to fog, the only truly safe option is avoidance – wait until the weather improves before leaving. Make sure you're completely familiar with all of the crops and sensitive areas surrounding a target field. If you're not sure what an adjacent crop is, verify before you make the application. A drift claim won't hurt a pushy customer, but it will hurt you. Don't compromise on wire and obstacle reconnaissance procedures just because you're in a hurry. This is especially critical if you are asked to spray fields you normally don't treat and are unfamiliar with.

The only load you should be thinking about is the one currently in your hopper. Concentrate on that load and don't worry about work to be done the rest of the day or the week. If job stress from a pressuring customer is distracting you, remember that it's alright to lose work from demanding and difficult customers. Disregarding safety in an attempt to keep that type of customer happy can result in wrecked aircraft, loss of life, and expensive drift claims.

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.