

## ***Fly Safe Campaign***



### **MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS**

***Don't become a statistic!***

**NTSB has reported 20 ag accidents including 2 fatal accidents so far this year.**

### **BEWARE OF SMALL-SCALE WEATHER EVENTS SUCH AS DUST DEVILS OR RAPIDLY DEVELOPING THUNDERSTORMS**

The NTSB recently investigated an accident where a turbine-powered Grumman G-164B Ag Cat flew through a dust devil (also called a whirlwind) shortly after takeoff from a remote airstrip. The airplane lost lift, impacted terrain, and came to rest inverted in a field. The pilot was not injured, but the airplane sustained substantial damage.

The National Weather Service defines a dust devil as “a small but vigorous atmospheric circulation, created when highly unstable, superheated, dry air near the ground breaks through the boundary layer and shoots upward.” Dust devils have a typical lifetime of a few minutes, they can be several yards in diameter, and they can be several hundred feet in height. Sometimes dust devils are visible, as they might contain dirt and debris from the ground. They typically form on hot and sunny afternoons when it's dry.

Rapidly developing scattered and isolated thunderstorms can also threaten ag aviators. These smaller scale storms can appear suddenly and catch unsuspecting ag aviators by surprise. As with any type of thunderstorm, they can produce heavy rain and high winds, both of which threaten aerial applicators caught in them. The rain can be sporadic, brief, and very heavy, causing a sudden and dramatic reduction in visibility. Always check the weather before you fly and throughout the day for any potential adverse weather that could affect your work. Keep in mind that the closest weather reporting station could be a good distance away from the remote area that you are working in.

### **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!**