

## **Fly Safe Campaign**



### **MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS**

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

**NTSB has reported 27 ag accidents including 2 fatal accidents so far this year.  
NTSB hasn't reported on 1 recent fatality, making the total 3 fatal accidents.**

### **IF YOU BELIEVE RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT OF YOURSELF AND THE PUBLIC IS PART OF AG AVIATION, DON'T TAKE THE INDUSTRY DOWN WITH YOU--FIND A NEW CAREER!**

Last week video surfaced on social media of an ag aircraft flying dangerously close to a semi-truck on an interstate. The video shows reckless flying and willful endangerment of the public. The original video, posted on a **public page**, has been shared over 16,000 times and has over 3,000 comments. These comments are not from fellow ag aviators – they are from the public at large, many of whom express outrage over the pilot's behavior. Specific comments include a suggestion that drones take over crop dusting to improve safety and numerous ones stating that the pilot should be turned into the FAA. The video made the news on six TV stations and thirteen radio stations. Media has confirmed the FAA is investigating the incident.

The incident should also serve as a reminder to all ag aviators that the public is watching and recording. If you fly like the pilot in this video, sooner or later someone is going to record you and make you infamous. Last season, after a string of fatal accidents in July, the FAA Administrator's office began asking questions in earnest about the safety culture of ag aviation. NAAA had to divert from advocating to the EPA for registering pesticides' availability for aerial use and divert advocating to the FAA for drone and tower safety assurances for manned aircraft to explain to them that the public and ag pilots' flight safety is of paramount importance to our industry.

The video of the truck buzzing tells the FAA and the public the exact opposite – it's a demonstration of a complete lack of concern for the safety of the public and the pilot. Behavior like this results in investigations, more regulations, and a potential dismissal of our safety concerns. How can we be taken seriously on matters of safety if regulators and policy makers think this video demonstrates common behavior? If you think such flying behavior captured on this video or similar antics is just a fun part of ag flying, please cease this behavior immediately or find another occupation outside of agricultural aviation. Such risk to the public threatens the existence of the ag aviation industry and the farmers, foresters and others that rely on us.

### **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](mailto:information@agaviation.org) if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.