

## **Fly Safe Campaign**



### **MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS**

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

**NTSB has reported 35 ag accidents including 5 fatal accidents so far this year. There have been 2 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 7 fatal accidents.**

### **THE PUBLIC IS WATCHING YOU - OPERATE IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER AT ALL TIMES**

An aerial application made the news in July when accusations were made that an ag aircraft dropped a fungicide near a camp. The reporting on the incident was confusing; the initial report said the aircraft exploded, then that 72 people were exposed to pesticides, and finally an official said they found no exposures to anyone of the pesticide the aerial applicator was applying. It's likely the application was done professionally and was 100% on-target, but a single person started a chain reaction of bad publicity by calling a routine aerial application an emergency. It's a reminder the public is always watching – while you can't prevent someone from overreacting, you can ensure all your applications are made in a professional manner.

As mentioned in last week's [Fly Safe](#), there has been a recent surge in helicopter ag accidents, the majority being wire strikes. This dramatic increase in helicopter accidents has caught the attention of both national aviation associations and the FAA, who noted that 52% of the helicopter accidents in July and were due to ag helicopter accidents. These ag helicopter accidents exceed those of the past 5 years. Remember – do not get into tight areas you can't safely get out of – both for your safety and the reputation of the industry. Accident numbers like these can lead to more regulations.

There have been safety and environmental concerns raised this season from public airports with agricultural aircraft wanting to work off them as well as county sheriffs questioning the legality of helicopter load trucks blocking county roads while treating a nearby field. Be sure to check all local rules and regulations before operating on any public place, be it airport or road. Keep areas clean and do everything possible to ensure the safety of the general public. The public is constantly watching, they all have video cameras, and they know how to contact local, state and federal regulators, and the media. Remember, play the long game. Always be professional. Don't just think about business in the moment, but for years and generations to come.

### **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.