

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 4 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

START SAFE AND AVOID WIRES

Ag flying operations will soon be increasing in many areas throughout the country. As your application season gears up, be aware that early in the season you are reacquainting yourself with your aircraft and flying environment. No matter how many hours you have flying ag aircraft, time off during the winter, even if it's a short time, means you might be a bit rusty with certain skills and procedures. New aircraft or technology updates in the cockpit, such as a new GPS unit, can further confound your ability to get back to your peak performance. Over the prior 10 seasons, 29% of the total accidents and 33% of the fatal accidents have occurred in the months of January through May. Use caution and think safety as your flying increases.

Always be on alert for obstacles. Last year, there were 20 controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) accidents, accounting for 36% of all ag accidents. Of those 20 CFIT accidents, 14 were wire strikes. Seven of the 12 fatal accidents in 2021 were wire strikes. For each application mission, it is imperative you devote sufficient effort to scouting for wires and other obstructions. You must maintain your awareness of wires throughout all phases of your flight including reconnaissance, entry into the field, applying in the field, and departing the field. Given the limitations of short-term memory and the numerous things requiring your attention during aerial applications, it can be easy to forget about wires in a field. In fact, a preliminary analysis of wire strike accidents from 2017 to 2021 suggests roughly half of pilots involved in wire strikes were aware of the wires they struck. Always keep wires in your thoughts.

To assist you with keeping the wires and other obstructions at the forefront in your mind, make every other thought that goes through your head about the wires. It is best to speak your reminder about the wires or other obstructions out loud to yourself. While this may seem silly, science has shown that speaking something out loud forces your brain to slow down, thus allowing you to spend more time focused on that thought. You may not see the wire anymore but saying "Wire!" will help you remember it's there.

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!