

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 6 ag accidents including 2 fatal accidents so far this year.

CONTROLLED FLIGHT INTO TERRAIN ACCIDENTS CLAIM TWO MORE LIVES IN 2021

The 2021 ag aviation season has begun much like 2020 – ag pilots are colliding with obstacles and dying. While the NTSB reports for the two 2021 fatal accidents are not yet final, both appear to be Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) accidents. CFIT includes collision with the ground as well as obstacles attached to the ground, such as power poles, wires, towers, and trees. Over the previous 10 years, 29% of all ag accidents and 51% of fatal ag accidents have been CFIT. The most commonly hit objects are power lines, and it appears both of the 2021 fatal CFIT accidents were the result of hitting power lines.

Know when to say no to a job that has more obstructions than you feel you can safely handle. Scout all of your fields thoroughly and then make a plan as to how you intend to treat the field safely. If there is a particular obstacle that concerns you, such as a pole without evident wires, investigate before you begin the application. Yes, stopping will take additional time, especially if you have to send someone out on the ground to check it out. However, taking the time to inspect an area could add time to your life and will take far less time than the time your family would need to arrange your funeral, or to repair or replace a wrecked aircraft.

No matter how busy you are, your life depends on you keeping track of obstacles during an application. There are many different layers of distraction in ag aviation, especially in the busy part of your season. These can include worrying about other jobs you have to do that day, equipment malfunctions, personal problems, and countless others. Be especially wary of cockpit distractions. When you're in a pass, do not allow your attention to be diverted. The more distractions you have, the more likely it is your brain will focus on those problems instead of the what's in front of your aircraft, and the more likely it is you'll lose track of an obstacle and have an accident. Forgetting about an obstacle won't make it go away.

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, May, June and August and every Monday in July for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when increased flight activity warrants additional safety awareness. 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.