

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 10 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 2 fatal accidents.

BE A PROFESSIONAL AERIAL APPLICATOR

Making accurate and safe applications benefits your customers, you, and the aerial application industry. Your customers have hired you to provide pest control for their crops, and they rightfully expect a quality job. Adjacent growers and neighbors expect your application to stay on target. With UAS becoming commonplace, it is now easy for farmers to collect remotely sensed images to examine their crops for potential issues, including streaking from applications.

There were reports of streaking last season, particularly from fungicide applications on corn to treat tar spot. There are numerous reasons an application can streak. Pattern test your aircraft at an Operation S.A.F.E. fly-in to verify you have a uniform pattern and to identify your optimum swath width. Height is also critical - if you fly at a height of 15 feet at the fly-in, you cannot expect to achieve the same swath width in a field if you're flying with wheels in the tassels. Flying higher gives the pattern more room to spread out, so flying too low can shorten it compared to what it was at a fly-in. Test your pattern at the same height you spray at. Spraying during very calm conditions also has the potential to narrow your swath slightly, so use caution if you must spray when there's little wind.

The EPA and state regulatory agencies are always monitoring our industry. Agricultural aircraft are highly visible, and the N-number makes it easy for the public to identify the operator. In today's world of heightened fear of pesticides and other modern agricultural practices, it's very possible to have a complaint filed against you even if you did everything correctly. Keep good records and be up front with inspectors, no matter how frustrated you get. Even if they can't violate you on the original complaint, they can go through your records and statements to find some other infraction they can use to justify filing a complaint. Maintain membership in NAAA and state associations and document participation in PAASS and S.A.F.E. Spray safe and fly safe.

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 and May and every Monday in June, July and August for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when additional safety awareness is warranted. 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.