

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 14 ag accidents including 5 fatal accidents so far this year.

AGE AND EXPERIENCE DO NOT MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE – FLY SAFE EVERY LOAD

Age and experience are no guarantee for preventing an accident. From 2011 to 2020, the average age of a pilot involved in the accident was 46 years old, and the average total flight time was 8,159 hours. For fatal accidents during that period, the average age was 48 years old and average total flight time was 10,507 hours. Seven pilots who lost their lives in this period had 25,000 or more hours; four pilots had less than 1,000 hours. The 2019 NAAA survey shows 55 years old is the average age for operators while pilots average 47 years old. Operators have an average of 12,404 hours of total flight time and pilots have an average of 9,564 hours of total flight time.

The fatal accidents in 2021 included young pilots with little experience as well as pilots with many years and hours of experience in ag aviation. In the 2020 season, a brand-new pilot, an experienced pilot, and a seasoned ag aviation veteran all died in stall spin accidents. It is impossible to know what caused the turn to be made in an unsafe manner. It could have been a cockpit distraction, a health issue, or complacency and a belief to deviate from the normal turning process without fear of an accident.

If the latter is complacency, this is often caused by the very things that should prevent an accident – experience, training, and knowledge. It creates a sense of feeling safe and secure and occurs when someone is very familiar with their work, especially work that involves repetitive tasks. Fatigue and stress can increase risk of complacency and lead to deviating from safety protocols. An accident can happen to anyone at any time. It doesn't matter if the load in the hopper is your first ever, or the last of your 30th season. Keep your mind on the task at hand, always stick to your personal minimums, and always fly the aircraft as if your life depended on it. Because it does.

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.