

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 7 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

IS THIS DISTRACTING?

Distractions play a role in many ag aviation accidents. A loss of focus and concentration for even a split second in the ag flying environment can lead to an accident. The NTSB has listed "Eliminate Distractions" as their top item on their Most Wanted List of needed safety improvements for all modes of transportation including aviation, highway, marine, and railroad.

Any communication device can be tempting to use at inadvertent times because of the pressure to continue conducting business in today's face-paced environment. [Current federal regulations](#) allow cell phone use in an aircraft on the ground but not while airborne. A [white paper by the National Safety Council](#) on distracted driving reveals that hands-free devices, while often thought of as a safe alternative to handheld use, do not eliminate cognitive distraction and offer no real safety benefit. It is the distraction caused by the conversation, not the device, that can lead to an accident, whether in a car, ag aircraft, or other vehicle.

The NTSB has specifically noted inflight cell phone use and diverted attention to GPS in certain fatal ag aviation accident reports. There are many devices inside the cockpit that can cause a distraction but are work related and necessary to completing your mission. Make sure you think about how to use them safely before you divert your attention to them. If you need to communicate or figure out an issue with your GPS, climb to a safe altitude in an area free of obstructions. If at all possible, save the task until you are on the ground where it can receive your undivided attention without risking your life.

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.