

## ***Fly Safe Campaign***



### **MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS**

***Don't become a statistic!***

**NTSB has reported 12 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year. There have been 2 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB.**

### **LOW TIME IN AIRCRAFT TYPE INCREASES RISK**

Agricultural aviation accident statistics have revealed that those pilots who have low time in the type of aircraft they are flying are at significantly higher risk for having an accident. Of the total number of accidents from 2006 to 2015, 39% occurred with pilots having less than 500 hours in the accident aircraft. Pilots with less than 100 hours in the aircraft accident made up 14% of those total accidents. This increase in accidents is seen for both new and experienced pilots.

While overall experience is always a positive thing, you will still be at a disadvantage when you start in a new aircraft no matter how many hours you have. As an example, one pilot had 35,000 total time but only 250 hours in the aircraft in which he had the accident. This can especially be true when the new aircraft you're flying is faster and heavier than your previous aircraft. Differences in how controls are laid out can take time for your mind to adjust to. Muscle memory doesn't develop overnight, so when you first transition to a new aircraft you will need to be thinking more about where things are located in the cockpit and adjusting to the feel of the controls.

If the aircraft has a GPS system in which you are unfamiliar, that too can increase the time it takes to get to understand it. It can also cause a distraction if you are forced to break your concentration in order to figure something out or to fix. When you switch aircraft, increase your concentration and give yourself more time to react. If something is especially distracting, gain some altitude, or better yet land, before you attempt to resolve the issue.

### **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](mailto: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.