

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 17 ag accidents including 3 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

WIRES CAN BE ANYWHERE – COMMUNICATE, SCOUT, AND KEEP YOUR GUARD UP

Wire strikes continue to be a leading cause of ag aviation accidents. While most involve a power line, a fatal accident in June is a stark reminder that wires can be anywhere. The [NTSB's preliminary report](#) indicates the pilot struck a “dove wire” used to attract birds for hunting. The wire was mounted on a 40-foot pole with a hunting stand and ran 250 feet across the full width of the center of the corn field into trees bordering the other side. This was the first time the pilot had sprayed the field, so he had talked with the landowner beforehand to discuss any hazards and it appears the wires in question weren't mentioned. Two flyovers were conducted prior to spraying.

Always have a plan in place with a checklist as to how you will determine if dangerous obstructions are present in the fields you are treating, including a detailed conversation with the landowner/farmer. Make sure you ask specific questions because the farmer likely does not fully comprehend the dangers certain obstructions might present. Instead of asking about hazards in general, ask specifically about the number and location of power lines, poles of any kind, towers, irrigation equipment, and any other type of obstructions including hunting stands and wires.

During your reconnaissance and while making the application, continuously scan for both wires and poles. If you see a pole, assume there is a wire present. If you see something that you can't quite make out, hold off making the application until you've had a chance to investigate. Equip your aircraft with all available wire cutters and deflectors to give yourself the best chance of surviving if you do hit a wire.

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.