

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 38 ag accidents including 10 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB bringing the unofficial total to 11 fatal accidents.

IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER – STAY RESTED AND DON'T GET COMPLACENT

By all accounts it's been a busy season for ag aviators across much of the U.S. While the season might be winding down in many regions, applications continue, and safety remains paramount. Fatigue and complacency are two dangers to be aware of year round, but especially on the downhill side of a busy season. Fatigue can be both physical and mental and causes a decrease in attentiveness and the ability to perform even simple tasks with your normal efficiency.

Situational awareness can become very difficult to maintain if you are exhausted. Fatigue can also increase your reaction time and impair your memory. Factors that contribute to fatigue include length and quality of your last rest period, time on duty, disruption of your circadian rhythm, workload, stress, and your overall health. Make sure you stay well rested by taking every opportunity possible to sleep. Eating healthy and staying hydrated can also help battle fatigue. Most people are poor judges of whether they are suffering from fatigue, so make sure all crew members are trained and empowered to watch for signs of pilot fatigue and to let the fatigued know that they need to take a break.

Complacency is dangerous because it affects even experienced pilots. Complacency can occur when you are very familiar with your work, especially work that involves repetitive tasks that have been performed all season long. There are obviously numerous repetitive tasks involved in ag flying, and those tasks can begin to feel routine and mundane, which causes a feeling of safety and security because of your familiarity with the tasks. This type of complacency most often occurs after a period of intense workload. If you've been spraying wired up fields all day, your brain can get a little numb as to where the wires are in a particular field. Scouting for obstructions a second time when you get ready to spray your trim passes is a good idea all the time, but especially important when you find yourself becoming complacent.

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.