

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 36 ag accidents including 6 fatal accidents so far this year. There have been 3 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 9 fatal accidents.

KEEP YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME FOR THE HOMESTRETCH. IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL IT'S OVER.

By all accounts, it has been a busy season for ag aviators across much of the U.S. While the season might be winding down in some regions, applications continue in other regions, 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 simple tasks with your normal efficiency. 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.

A reduction in your workload can lead to a relief of pressure and stress, which is good, but it can also lead to complacency and cause you to let your guard down. 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. Pay attention! Don't get 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!