

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 34 ag accidents including 8 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

DON'T LET COMPLACENCY RUIN YOUR SEASON

A recent accident serves as a reminder to ag aviators about how complacency can quickly lead to a crash. The pilot had changed his oil the morning of the accident before taking off with his first load. He had a specific routine he followed when changing his oil, but on that morning, he was in a hurry and altered this routine. It resulted in him forgetting to put his oil cap back on. As soon as he took off, oil began to cover his windshield. He was unable to see and subsequently had a forced landing in a nearby cornfield as he attempted to return to the airstrip.

The pilot admits to being overly complacent and diverting from his normal, safe routine. Complacency happens, but it is not an excuse. According to aviation human factors experts, complacency is caused by the very things that should prevent accidents, such as experience, training, and knowledge. They define it as “a mental state where an aviator acts, unaware of actual danger or deficiencies.” Signs of complacency include accepting lower work performance, increased boredom and inattention to tasks, not wanting to remain knowledgeable about work, increased feeling of well-being even as your workload builds, and neglecting important safety protocols.

To counter complacency, keep yourself aware of ag aviation accidents as a reminder of the consequences of complacency. Go through contingency checklists aloud as a means of avoiding hearing and seeing only what you expect to hear and see. Train recurrently to constantly improve your skills and refresh your knowledge. Critique your performance in order to foster self-improvement and development. Abide by your personal safety minimums always. 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!

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.