

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 38 ag accidents including 7 fatal accidents so far this year. There have been 2 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 9 fatal accidents.

FINISH SEASON SAFE AND MAKE ACCURATE APPLICATIONS OF COVER CROPS

As your season winds down continue to keep safety as a top priority. Over the five-year period of 2017 to 2021, an average of 12 percent of total ag accidents and an average of 15 percent of fatal ag accidents occurred in the months of September through December. A decreasing workload can make it easy to start thinking and worrying about other things not directly related to the mission of safely making an accurate application. It is still critical that you keep your mind focused on flying safe. An accident can happen at any time, not just during the busy part of your season. Keep your mind focused on flying safe, every flight, no matter if it's the only one you have that day.

Many aerial applicators are beginning to make the transition to cover crop applications. Cover crop seeding is best done by an agricultural aircraft, but poor spreader setup and application procedures can result in a streaky application. While this can occur with any type of application, cover crops are especially visible to the grower and public. Poor quality work can result in a damaged reputation to both the applicator who did the job and the entire aerial application industry.

Make sure you set your aircraft up properly and pattern test it to ensure your application is uniform for each type of cover crop you intend to apply. The type of seed can impact the effective swath width. Ensure seed mixtures are properly blended and are not allowed to segregate during transport and loading. Make sure the spreader is mounted correctly, with no obstructions to smooth airflow. It is critical the gate is set to open evenly across its entire width. Also make sure the air inlet into the spreader provides clean airflow. Cover or remove obstructions in front of the spreader to smooth intake airflow and install vanes on and ahead of the hopper gate to straighten airflow as it enters the spreader.

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!