

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB reports 15 ag accidents, including 3 fatal accidents, for 2024. An additional 3 fatalities are unreported, making 6 fatal accidents.

EMERGENCY FLY SAFE - THERE ARE NOW SIX DEAD AG PILOTS: COMMUNICATE AND PLAN TO PREVENT MID-AIR COLLISIONS

Yesterday there was another mid-air collision that claimed the life of an ag pilot and left a second seriously injured. While the NTSB is still investigating, we know that in both recent mid-air collision the two aircraft that collided were from the same operation. It is unknown for certain whether ADS-B was installed on the aircraft involved or how it played a role in the accidents. ADS-B and working radios are recommended for avoiding mid-air collisions. Both are means of communicating information critical to avoiding a mid-air, however, neither will work if you're not using them effectively.

Communication and planning are necessary when working in proximity with other ag aircraft. This includes an operation's own aircraft operating off the home airstrip, aircraft from several operations working at a public airport, and ferrying and applying in an area with heavy aerial application activity. It is imperative you stay in touch with neighboring operators so you both know where you'll have aircraft working. It doesn't matter if it's your competitor and you aren't on agreeable terms – you need to talk to each other to prevent accidents. It's not worth a life to be grounded in obstinacy and cling to a grudge.

The dispatching process can increase safety by having a single person responsible for sending all aircraft out. They can ensure aircraft are sent to different sectors of the operation's geography and serve as the communications hub among all aircraft. If it is necessary to have aircraft work near each other, it becomes even more critical to plan and communicate. Once you have established a plan for how you will work amongst each other to avoid colliding, don't deviate from that plan.

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 e-mail every other Monday in April and May and every Monday in June, July, and August for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when additional safety awareness is warranted. Please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.