

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!



June 9, 2025

- 8 Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year
- 2 Fatalities (Including 1 not yet reported by NTSB)

## GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO SURVIVE AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A FIRE – WEAR A FIRE-RESISTANT FLIGHT SUIT

A 2024 ag aviation accident highlights the importance of wearing fire-resistant flight suits. According to the NTSB, the accident was a stall and loss of control caused by the pilot's exceedance of the airplane's critical angle of attack during a turn. While most stall spin accidents are fatal, this pilot survived only to be faced with a post-impact fire which he escaped before the aircraft was destroyed. However, he suffered multiple 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns on his face and chest. He was flown from the accident site to a hospital via an air medical flight for burn treatment and ultimately survived his injuries.

The pilot was wearing a helmet during the flight but not a fire-resistant flight suit, fire resistant flight gloves, or leather flight boots. Instead, the pilot wore a fishing shirt, blue jeans, and athletic shoes which provided no protection from the fire. The burn injuries suffered by the pilot prompted the airframe manufacturer to release a general service information letter recommending that ag pilots use fire-resistant flight suits made of strong, lightweight, and heat-resistant synthetic materials (such as Nomex and Kevlar), leather footwear and fire-resistant gloves to increase a pilot's chance of surviving an accident involving a fire.

The Low Altitude session at the 2024 Ag Aviation Expo revealed that 12% of all fixed wing ag aviation accidents from 2010 to 2024 had a post-crash fire; of those, 45% were fatal. While a majority of the fatal injuries were the result of blunt force trauma, for between 9% and 12% of the fatal accidents, thermal injures from the fire were the cause of the fatality. Wearing a fire-resistant flight suit can give you the extra seconds you need to safely escape a fire after an accident. And those seconds count – every 2 seconds of exposure to a fire may result in an additional 20% of your body burned.

Check TFRs

Always check Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) NOTAMs before flying! Make sure you have proof of a preflight TFR briefing from sources such as FSS or <a href="https://www.1800wxbrief.com">https://www.1800wxbrief.com</a>

Don't Forget to Communicate

Communicate with other ag aircraft using 122.925 MHz – limit your transmissions to announcing who you are, where you are, and what you plan to do.