

June 30, 2025

- 13 Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year
- 2 Fatalities

PRACTICE PROFESSIONALISM OR FACE FINES, PENALTIES, LOSS OF CUSTOMERS OR INSURANCE, AND NO PRODUCTS LABELED FOR AERIAL APPLICATION

The weather has impacted agriculture in many parts of the country. Customers are behind and anxious to get their crops treated. When high winds prevent you from getting your work done, don't give into the temptation to spray anyway. Spraying under these conditions can damage your operation's reputation as well as the entire industries'. You put yourself at risk of losing customers, regulators ceasing your operation's work, paying for drift claims, spending time in court, and difficulty keeping insurance. You put the ag aviation industry at risk of losing the ability to spray pesticides our customers need applied by aerial application.

NAAA has worked to ensure aerial application remains on product labels for numerous pesticides. NAAA was able to secure a maximum wind limit of 15 mph for aerial applications of many pesticides, instead of the 10-mph limit initially proposed by the EPA. EPA also agreed with NAAA that buffers to protect endangered species be wind-directional and that increasing droplet size and reducing boom length should reduce the required distance. This was accomplished by promoting the technology and techniques used in modern aerial application and YOUR professionalism. If labels are ignored, drift incidents increase, and complaints are filed, EPA can easily reverse these decisions.

When you spray in high winds, you increase the risk of drift and decrease the uniformity of your application. Both substantially reduce the amount of pesticide reaching the intended target, which results in poor pest control and reduced yield. Don't stretch your swath width or cheat on the amount of pesticide in your mixture either. Customers who don't get the results they expect because you cut corners and acted unprofessionally will be less likely to hire you in the future and may even decide to give up on aerial application all together.

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 https://www.1800wxbrief.com

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.