



# FLY SAFE CAMPAIGN

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS  
DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!



AgAviation.org/flysafe

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**18** Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year  
**2** Fatalities

## KEEP YOUR COCKPIT CLUTTER FREE AND PREVENT LOOSE ITEMS OR RISK HAVING AN ACCIDENT

A near catastrophe earlier this season was a lesson for an experienced ag pilot to ensure his cockpit remains uncluttered. The incident began when the pilot placed a new aerosol can of windshield cleaner and a cleaning rag in the cockpit. Normally a container was used to hold both items, but on this particular day he placed them on the right side of the cockpit floor near the heater, with no container to secure them. It was a cool morning, so he had the heater turned on partially to provide warmth. During a turn on his second load of the day, his flight was interrupted by a big bang.

The explosion blew the right door open and bowed the left door out. The hinges of both were destroyed and the right door had to be replaced. The flames burned the hair on the back of his hands while the can struck and damaged the radios. At first, he thought the explosion came from the engine, but quickly determined there were no issues with power or flight controls. After smelling glass cleaner and noticing his leg was wet, he realized that the can of glass cleaner had exploded. The can had a warning to keep its temperature below 120 degrees; the heater had clearly caused this temperature to be exceeded.

This incident is a reminder to keep your cockpit free of clutter. Loose items can move during flight into unexpected and dangerous locations. Items rolling around on the floor can lodge in rudder pedals and prevent them from working properly. Items kept on top of the instrument panel can fall off during turns and lodge in any number of locations, many of which could interfere with proper operation of the aircraft. Make sure every item in your cockpit is secured in a location and manner to prevent it from moving during flight. It's also a reminder to keep the visor down on your helmet – the explosion could have easily blinded the pilot had he not had his face covered.

### 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.

**Make a *Fly Safe* Resolution Today!**