

August 4, 2025

- 27 Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year
 - 4 Fatalities

ANOTHER PROFESSIONALISM REMINDER: FOLLOW THE RULES AND USE GOOD ETIQUETTE AT PUBLIC AIRPORTS

Unprofessional behavior by an ag aviation operation can have negative consequences for the entire industry, not just the guilty party. Ensuring accurate applications and mitigating drift has already been covered in the <u>June 30 Fly Safe</u>; acting like a professional at public airports is also necessary to maintain a positive image of ag aviation. When you leave your home strip and work off a public airport, other aviators, airport officials, and members of the public who visit will all be witnesses to how your operation conducts applications.

Keep your work area clean when operating out of public airport. Store all pesticides and fertilizers in weather-tight containers and have an appropriate-sized cleanup kit and supplies for the quantity stored. Maintain mixing and loading equipment and fix leaks immediately. Use a dry break for loading to prevent spills and keep airport surfaces dry and clean. While it may not be required for the airport you're working on, use a portable containment pad to ensure any leaks are contained and easy to clean up. NAAA is aware of one member who had difficulty securing permission to work off a public airport because prior ag operations had left messes from their loading operations.

Maintain a safe environment for other aviators using a public airport – you're not the only one flying there. An incident about a flight instructor's near miss with an ag aircraft made <u>General Aviation News</u> earlier this year. FAR Part 137 gives you permission to deviate from an airport traffic pattern, but you must remain clear of and give way to any aircraft that are conforming to the airport's traffic pattern. Don't get in such a hurry to get back in the air with your next load that you endanger other aviators or cause them distress. Not everyone at a public airport may be familiar with ag operations – don't cause them to form a negative opinion and complain. That's where new rules come from.

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.