



# FLY SAFE CAMPAIGN

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS  
DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!



AgAviation.org/flysafe

April 20, 2026

2 Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year  
0 Fatalities

## YOUR AIRCRAFT ENGINE RUNS BETTER WITH FUEL – ENSURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH BEFORE DEPARTURE

There has already been a fuel exhaustion accident in 2026. A turbine-powered airplane completed its application and was ferrying back to the airstrip when a total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion occurred, requiring the pilot to make a forced landing in a wooded area. The aircraft suffered substantial damage, but thankfully the pilot was not injured.

From 2010 to 2025, there were 43 fuel-exhaustion accidents in ag aviation, which represents 4% of all ag aviation accidents during this period. An analysis of these fuel exhaustion accidents and the inflation-adjusted average annual price of oil from 2010 to 2025 found no statistical relationship between oil price and fuel exhaustion accidents. The type of fuel – Jet A or avgas – also did not impact the likelihood of having a fuel exhaustion accident. Helicopters were associated with an increased frequency of fuel exhaustion accidents. Helicopter pilots should avoid the temptation to increase their hopper load at the expense of sufficient fuel - just because the truck is close by doesn't mean the fuel can magically appear in your fuel tank.

Fuel exhaustion accidents can be prevented by using checklists and communicating with your ground crew. When you reload your aircraft, determine how much fuel you need to apply that load and add a reserve for safety. Make sure your ground crew knows how much fuel you need and that it's onboard the aircraft before you depart. When it gets hot, don't sacrifice fuel to take off with a full hopper no matter what type of aircraft you're flying. Your aircraft's engine can't increase your efficiency when the fuel tank is empty.

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### 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.

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**Make a Fly Safe Resolution Today!**