



FLY SAFE CAMPAIGN

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS
DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!



AgAviation.org/flysafe

July 27, 2026

18 Ag Accidents reported by NTSB this year
2 Fatalities

SIX HELICOPTER ACCIDENTS IN ONE WEEK – FOUR INVOLVED WIRE STRIKES

There are currently 18 ag aviation accidents reported by the NTSB in 2026, 39% of which involved helicopters. The latest FAA survey data indicates helicopters represent 25% of the ag aviation fleet and account for 22% of the hours flown making aerial applications. While they haven't all been reported by NTSB yet, FAA incident reports indicate that from July 15 to July 21, there were six helicopter accidents, four of which appear to be the result of a wire strike.

Wire strikes are the most common cause of ag aviation accidents, both total and fatal accidents. It doesn't matter how busy you are – take the time to conduct two recon orbits in different directions. If your field has numerous obstacles, is nearby sensitive areas, and sites with people, you may need more than two orbits to identify everything. Over two-thirds of the time wire strikes involve a wire the pilot KNEW was there, but they'd forgotten about it. You must have a strategy in place to continuously remind yourself about wires in your work area.

Helicopter pilots must keep in mind that your ability to get close to an obstacle in a confined field does not mean you have to. While it's important to make a quality application for your customers, don't let your desire to spray every inch of the field lure you into a wire.

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!