

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 3 ag accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

DO NOT FORGET ABOUT WIRES

As we enter April, there are reports that ag aviation operations in the southern part of the country and California are already very busy. No matter where you are and whether your season is well underway or about to pick up, make sure you have a plan in place to prevent wire strike accidents. Controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) was the leading cause of accidents in 2022, accounting for 31% of the total accidents and 22% of the fatal accidents. The most common object struck was wires, accounting for 63% of all the CFIT accidents and half of the fatal CFIT accidents.

Remember the lessons from the 2022-2023 PAASS Program. Do not count on seeing wires. Your vision can fail you when it comes to seeing them so you must treat them as an invisible hazard. Instead, read the structures and hardware to determine the location of all wires in and around a field. Conduct a thorough reconnaissance of the application site and surrounding area to locate all wires and other obstructions and hazards. It's highly recommended you make two complete flights around the area in opposite directions instead of just a single loop. The second flight in the opposite direction will give you a different point a view and a better chance of seeing all the potential hazards.

One critical point is to not forget about the wires you've identified during your reconnaissance flight. Audience polling during the 2022-2023 PAASS season revealed that 68% of attendees who had struck a wire in their career hit wires they were already aware of. Your mind works against you regarding wires. Your brain can only hold about 5 things in short term memory at once, and the next thing that enters your mind forces out the oldest item in short term memory. Since you scout for wires at the beginning of the application, at some point they will be the item that gets dumped from your short-term memory as other application tasks occupy your thoughts. It is critical that you have an active mental/verbal system in place to prevent short-term memory loss of wires.

Check Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

Always check TFR NOTAMs before flying! Make sure you have proof of a preflight TFR briefing from sources such as FSS or <https://www.1800wxbrief.com>.

Make a "Fly Safe" Resolution Now!