

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 5 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

AVOID ENGINE FUEL SYSTEM CONTAMINATION

NTSB has seen several ag aircraft fuel contamination issues recently. Ag aircraft are subject to numerous situations that could result in contamination to the engine fuel system such as unclean fuel storage facilities, aircraft washing, loading, refueling, and maintenance; and/or operating/storing the aircraft outside in condensation/rain. Contamination could be from a variety of sources such as chemicals, debris from the aircraft and maintenance work, or dirt, dust, microbial growth, rust, sand, and water. Contamination of an engine fuel system could result in either a partial or a complete loss of engine power.

Turbine engine components that could be adversely affected by contamination include the fuel control unit and the fuel nozzles. According to FAA AC 20-43, turbine engine fuel controls and pumps are more sensitive than piston engine fuel systems. Their fuel feed and pumping systems must work harder, tolerances are closer and fuel pressures are higher. Fine contaminants may block fuel supply systems and erode critical parts of engine and fuel control systems. Due to the nature of aerial application work, operators should consider increasing the inspection frequency of turbine engine fuel system components. Always follow the maintenance manual when performing your work. Consult with the airframe, the engine, and the engine accessory manufacturers on any additional service documents regarding the topic of fuel contamination.

Here are additional resources on fuel contamination:

- [Air Tractor, Service Letter #148, Fuel Contamination](#)
- [Thrush Aircraft, Service Letter SL-AG-127, Aircraft Servicing and Fuel System Best Practices](#)
- [Federal Aviation Administration, Advisory 20-43C Aircraft Fuel Control](#)
- [Federal Aviation Administration, Advisory 20-125 Water in Aviation Fuels](#)
- [National Transportation Safety Board, Safety Alert SA-079 Fuel Providers: Prevent Diesel Exhaust Fluid Jet Fuel Contamination](#)

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!

Watch your fax or e-mail every other Monday in April and May and every Monday in June, July, and August for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when additional safety awareness is warranted. To be removed from the "Fly Safe" fax list, please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org. Let us know if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all faxes or e-mails from the NAAA.