

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 12 ag accidents including 1 fatal accident so far this year.

AVOID MID-AIR COLLISIONS AND AIR STRIP ACCIDENTS – COMMUNICATE, FERRY ABOVE FIVE AND INSTALL ADS-B IN YOUR AG AIRCRAFT

Recently two aircraft collided on a runway when one aircraft was taking off and the other was landing. No matter how busy you are, take the time to do everything necessary to avoid having a mid-air collision or runway incursion. Collision avoidance begins with communication. When working with other operations at a public airport, with your own fleet of aircraft on a private strip, or in a heavily congested area, communicating your intentions to other pilots is essential to avoiding an accident. And remember that no communication is complete without hearing confirmation back that your message was received and acknowledged. If you don't have radios, establish a plan on how to handle traffic at your air strip and stick to it.

It is critical to ferry at a minimum altitude of 500 feet above ground level. This provides a level of clearance between your aircraft and aircraft working in fields below where you are ferrying. It also allows you better visibility to see other aircraft working in the area. Besides the runway incursion, there has been a near miss where an ag aircraft pulled up at the end of the field and almost collided with another ag aircraft ferrying just above tree tops. The only excuse for not being at 500 feet is that the target field is so close to the air strip that you don't have time to get there.

ADS-B In can reduce the likelihood of a mid-air collision by letting other ADS-B In equipped aircraft know where you are at, and letting you know the same. In the near miss described above, the aircraft pulling up was ADS-B In equipped but the one ferrying too low was not equipped with any ADS-B, so neither pilot had advance warning the other was in the area. ADS-B In does not have to be monitored – it can be set to provide an audible warning when another aircraft enters a user defined airspace. ADS-B can notify UAV equipped with ADS-B that you are in the area too.

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 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. Please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.