

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.

FIRST FLY SAFE FIRST IN 2021

The 2021 aerial application season got off to a rough start with a fatality occurring in January. At this point the NTSB has only released a preliminary report, but it appears to be a CFIT (controlled flight into terrain) accident, with the pilot striking a utility pole or power lines on the edge of the field he was spraying. The pilot had 48 years of experience as an ag aviator. Let's make this fatality the first and last of 2021. While 2020 had the lowest total number of ag accidents ever at 50, there were 10 fatal accidents, the highest number since 2016.

Put safety first in your priorities this season. Establish personal minimums and then stick to those minimums no matter what the situation. Do not give in to the temptation to cut safety corners in order to get a job done quicker. If you attended the 2020-2021 PAASS program, you are well aware that cutting corners can lead to a normalization of deviance. Over time, your normal safe procedures are replaced with more dangerous procedures you have rationalized as being safe because you've never had an accident while performing them. Sooner or later, this will catch up to you and can result in an accident, and, using last season's ratio, a 20% of being deadly.

Intense pressure from customers, a large volume of work on the books, and other internal and external factors can all cause you to push yourself beyond your limits in order to get a job done. By keeping safety first in your priorities, it will be easier for you to observe your minimums and stay within your limits. The original title for this Fly Safe included the phrase "first fatality." This implied there will be more fatal accidents in 2021. While history indicates there likely will be, there doesn't have to be, but only you can make that happen. Next off-season, we'd all like to see you at PAASS, not in PAASS' "In Memoriam."

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, May, June and August and every Monday in July for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when increased flight activity warrants additional safety awareness. 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.