

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 17 ag accidents including 5 fatal accidents so far this year. There have been 3 fatal accidents not yet reported by NTSB bringing the total to 8 fatal accidents.

FLY SAFE OR DIE

The ag aviation industry has lost eight pilots in 2021. While NTSB investigations into these accidents are ongoing, at this point it looks like four were wire strikes. One happened recently and there are no details yet. The other three appear to be stall spin accidents, one of which looks to have occurred after buzzing. Turning safely is about energy management, and the safest turns are smooth and coordinated. Leave some energy in reserve for unexpected changes such as turbulence. In terms of wing over or hammerhead turns, these are aerobatic maneuvers. At the altitudes ag flying takes place at, there is no room for error or recovery. For a refresher on turning safely, watch this [NAAREF video](#).

If you observe another ag pilot flying in an unsafe manner, say something to them. Your willingness to speak up might save their life. For newer pilots, when you are given **safety** advice from a more experienced pilot, listen to them. A pilot killed in a 2017 stall spin accident had recently been fired by his previous employer because he would not heed repeated warnings about the dangers of making tight turns. He moved on to another operation where his failure to listen cost him his life. Ask questions, listen, and learn. Don't assume that because you're flying a turbine in your second season that you know all there is to know about ag aviation. You may be impressed with your flying skills – gravity is not.

If you insist on flying unsafe, please make sure you have your affairs in order. Have a life insurance policy that will meet your family's financial needs after you're gone. Make sure you tell them how much you love them every day because if you fly aggressively, you never know when it will be the last chance you get to let them know how you feel. Ensure all your work activities are well documented and someone in the operation can quickly get up to speed. Be sure to provide your farmer-customers the contact information of your competitor so that he won't be left without a professional to conduct his aerial application services. Or you can save everyone the anguish and trouble and FLY SAFE.

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.