

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 14 ag accidents including 2 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

PROTECT YOUR VISION IN THE EVENT OF A BIRD OR UAV STRIKE – KEEP YOUR VISOR DOWN

A recent safety video by Helicopter Association International (HAI) has a good message that applies to all ag aviators, whether you fly fixed-wing aircraft or helicopters – keep your helmet visor down whenever you're in flight. It can protect your face and most importantly your eyes and vision in the event of a bird strike. While it may not be as effective if a UAV penetrates your cockpit, a visor would still provide more protection to your eyes than having nothing at all over your face.

If a bird or UAV does come through your cockpit it could easily strike your face. With no visor to protect you, your eyes would likely get debris in them. This could result in a range of potential vision problems, the worst being permanent vision lost. Even if it's only temporary vision loss until your eyes can clear the material, losing your vision even for a short period at low altitude and/or while conducting an aerial application presents a very serious safety hazard.

HAI advises that while sunglasses will help your vision in sunlight, they won't do much to protect your eyes in the event of an object penetrating your cockpit. The use of tinted visors has other safety advantages. The most obvious is improved vision in bright sunlight. In addition, they can protect your eyes from the chronic effects of UV exposure elongating your hawk-eye ag aviation career. Most helmets can easily be equipped to have two visors, so you can utilize a clear one when you don't need protection from sunlight. There is no reason not to have a visor down at all times when you're conducting ag operations – see safe, 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.