

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 21 ag accidents including 5 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FIELD WORKERS

Corn fungicide applications are occurring across much of the country. It is important to remember you, as an ag pilot, are not the only one who visits in or around these fields this time of year. Whatever crop you are treating and wherever you're spraying, make every effort to locate workers present in and adjacent to the fields. Develop a communication plan with growers and seed companies to ensure up-to-date information is being shared about where field workers are located, and where you plan to be flying. [FieldWatch](#) launched a pilot program called [SeedFieldCheck](#) in Iowa for 2020 (possibly for additional states in 2021) designed to track seed field workers.

When you're surveying fields for obstructions, keep an eye out for field workers and signs of their presence such as trucks, buses, and portable toilets. For an aerial applicator involved in such an incident there is the risk of a violation, associated fines, and potential loss of an applicators license, as well as the possibility of a lawsuit from everyone accidentally sprayed. For the ag aviation industry as a whole these incidents are a black eye that frequently lead to a great deal of bad publicity. It is not easy to convince your local residents that aerial application is safe when the first thing that comes to their mind about ag aviation is a story about field workers getting sprayed.

Even if you feel the weather conditions will protect workers in a nearby field from drift, you may be better off waiting until they've left the area before you spray the target field. An alleged incident in Idaho resulted in a great deal of negative media, including a lengthy newspaper article that tried to imply the aerial applicator drifted on the workers despite all evidence proving that such drift was impossible.

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.