

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 31 ag accidents including 7 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

BEWARE OF MIXTURES IN YOUR HOPPER – UNKNOWN COMBINATIONS CAN BE DEADLY

A recent fatal accident highlights the dangers that certain product combinations can create. An ag pilot had a problem with solution foaming out of the hopper and covering his windshield. He had returned once to the airport to add more defoamer in an attempt to correct the issue. Unfortunately, he was unsuccessful and subsequently crashed after taking off again. The [preliminary NTSB report](#) provides more details including the contents of the spray mixture. The pilot survived the accident only to later succumb to his injuries, which may have been linked to the contents of the spray mixture.

Many crop consultants like to recommend complex tank mixtures of various pesticides, fertilizers, and adjuvants. You may have sprayed some of the individual products before, but not the exact combination being requested. If you're unsure of how the mixture will react, do a jar test to verify compatibility. Foaming, toxic fumes, exothermic reactions, physical and other chemical incompatibilities may result. Tank cleaning agents that have not been thoroughly rinsed from the hopper may also contribute to dangerous chemical reactions.

Labels should provide warnings for any known issues when using the product. Manufacturers, however, may not be aware of every combination in which their product might be used. Read the labels, and if you have any questions, reach out to your local company representatives to get those questions answered before you fly. A pilot overloaded an aircraft last week but was stopped by his operator before takeoff because of concerns about excessive foaming. Don't let spray mixtures lead to an accident.

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.