

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB has reported 38 ag accidents including 8 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been 1 fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

GENDER REVEALS ARE ILLEGAL IN AG AVIATION

Over the last several years there has been an increase in the number of times an agricultural aircraft is used for a gender reveal party. Some might view these incidents as harmless and exciting events that can showcase the skills of an ag pilot and the impressiveness of the airplane. In reality it is illegal and shows a willingness to take unnecessary risks and compromise safety in an attempt to show off. It endangers both the pilot and the participants and can bring unwanted media attention that reflects poorly on the aerial application industry. Last year a crash occurred on a gender reveal flight with an unauthorized passenger sitting with the pilot in his own seat.

To reiterate, when you use your ag aircraft to participate in a gender reveal, you are also violating the FARs. Restricted ag aircraft are restricted category for agricultural use only, and Part 137 exemptions apply only when performing ag operations. When you participate in a gender reveal you are operating under Part 91 and thus in violation of the prohibition of operating below 500 feet above the surface and closer than 500 feet to people.

As mentioned, an [accident last September](#) highlights how dangerous participating in a gender reveal can be. The aircraft stalled after the pilot dumped 350 gallons of pink water and subsequently crashed, causing substantial damage to the airplane. Note that the NTSB classified the flight as being conducted under Part 91, not Part 137. The pilot had a second person in the cockpit, a further violation of the FARs. The accident made national news, causing embarrassment for the industry. Think safe, act safe, fly safe, represent the industry professionally.

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.