

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

**NTSB reports 10 ag accidents, including 2 fatal accidents, for 2024.
An additional fatality is unreported, making 3 fatal accidents.**

NEW AG PILOTS NEED MENTORING WITH A FOCUS ON SAFETY, NOT PRODUCTIVITY

The lack of experience with new ag pilots can put them at a higher risk of having an accident. However, poor mentorship can significantly increase those risks. New ag pilots need a great deal of training, and it's their mentor's job to educate them in a safe manner. A pilot may have many hours in other types of flying, but that doesn't necessarily mean their training can be sped up. How much of that time was spent flying in the wire environment or working the long days required in ag? If you intend to mentor a new pilot into ag aviation, you need to be ready to devote the time and resources to do it properly. You must continuously monitor their progress and be available whenever they have questions or concerns.

Sending an inexperienced ag pilot out of their normal area they are used to flying compounds the danger of a lack of experience in ag flying with the risk of working in unfamiliar territory. New ag pilots need fields specifically selected for them based on their current skills and comfort level. This is not likely to occur when they're sent out of state during a period of intense spraying activity.

It is sometimes insinuated that inexperienced pilots are at fault for many of the ag accidents. But if these pilots are being turned loose in aircraft they're not ready for, to do jobs they're not ready for yet, whose fault really is it? For the inexperienced ag pilots reading this – when your mentor says you're not ready yet for a bigger aircraft or a field with wires or other obstacles, listen to them. If in doubt of your abilities to move to a higher performing aircraft or new locale, express those concerns. Mentors, ensure pilots are ready and proven to fly faster/larger aircraft and proven to perform in a new environment.

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 e-mail every other Monday in April and May and every Monday in June, July, and August for scheduled issues. Supplemental messages may be sent when additional safety awareness is warranted. Please call 202-546-5722 or e-mail information@agaviation.org if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.