

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

**NTSB reports 12 ag accidents, including 2 fatal accidents, for 2024.
An additional fatality is unreported, making 3 fatal accidents.**

TAKE CARE OF YOUR AIRCRAFT AND YOURSELF

During the 2023-2024 PAASS program, Fran de Kock of Battlefords Airspray in Canada talked about the differences between aerobatics and ag flying. In aerobatics you inflict as much pain as you can on yourself and the airplane in as short a period time as you possibly can because your goal is to impress an audience. In ag flying, you're trying to inflict as little pain as possible on yourself and the aircraft so you can fly all day and all season long. Constantly overloading your aircraft, working off rough strips, and flying it aggressively can all lead to structural failures to the aircraft and quickly exhaust an ag pilot.

While Fran's comments were focused on how you fly and turn your aircraft, the reminder to take care of your aircraft applies to all aspects of its usage. Stay up to date on all maintenance. Ensure the fuel you're putting in your aircraft is clean. Conduct thorough preflight inspections to look for any issues that may negatively affect airworthiness. A review of NTSB accident reports reveals that numerous ag accidents where the cause was attributed to a mechanical issue were in fact human factor related. Required inspections and needed maintenance were ignored until an accident occurred. The aircraft didn't fail – the operator did.

As for yourself, you need to ensure both your body and mind are well rested and ready for flight each day. Eat well. Stay hydrated. In the thick of the season, it can be a challenge to find time to get the required hours of sleep you need every night. Keep well-rested now and try to ensure that when rest periods present themselves, you take full advantage of them. While caffeine can help with alertness it can also interfere with sleep, so plan its use to prevent negative impacts. Avoid alcohol – even a small amount decreases the quality of your sleep by reducing periods of rapid eye movement (REM) and deep sleep.

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.