

## ***Fly Safe Campaign***



### **MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS**

***Don't become a statistic!***

**NTSB reports 20 ag accidents, including 5 fatal accidents, for 2024. An additional 2 fatalities are unreported, making 7 fatal accidents.**

### **SCOUT FIELDS FOR HAZARDS AND TO LET DRONES SEE YOU**

It is critical that you scout your fields thoroughly before entering them. A recent [FAASTeam Notice](#) in response to the number of fatal ag accidents this season stresses the need for reconnaissance. Because you can't see wires all of the time, you must treat them as an invisible hazard. Look instead for structures and hardware that indicate the presence of wires. Insulators can be used to determine changes in wire direction. Your vision can only truly focus on a small area, so something just three degrees off the center of your vision can be difficult to identify. This means you must keep your eyes moving during your scanning in order to cover the area sufficiently.

Thoroughly scouting a field takes time – you're not going to be able to sufficiently do it in a single quick pass over the center. Make at least two reconnaissance orbits, preferably in different directions. It doesn't matter if you were just in a field with the first load – you must reset your mind to the obstructions in the field and how you need to fly to avoid them. Many wire strikes occur while the pilot is making clean up passes. For this reason, you need to make another reconnaissance orbit before you begin trimming up a field.

Your reconnaissance orbits also give drone operators a chance to see and avoid your aircraft. A recent [safety webinar](#) offered by the FAASTeam for Part 137 drone operators stressed the speed at which manned ag aircraft arrive at and enter a field. Drone operators pay attention to the surrounding airspace because you won't have much time to spot an ag aircraft. Crewed/manned pilots, by making yourself known via multiple reconnaissance orbits you are allowing drone operators to locate your position—a key part of their requirement to see and avoid manned aircraft.

### **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](mailto:information@agaviation.org) if you wish to be removed only from these Fly Safe messages or all e-mails from the NAAA.