

Fly Safe Campaign



MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

NTSB reports 28 ag accidents, including 8 fatal accidents, for 2024. An additional 2 fatalities are unreported, making 10 fatal accidents.

SAY NO TO MORE WORK THAN YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH AND SAY YES TO SAFETY

When you're already busy and customers keep calling in with more work, it can be tempting to take on more work than you can realistically or safely get done. Consider that weather will almost certainly impact your ability to fly at some point. If you've booked yourself to the maximum assuming you'll be able to fly all day, every day, bad weather can have a cascading effect on your ability to get all the acres you booked sprayed. Takeoff accidents are a common type of ag aviation accident. Being overly busy is no excuse to overload your aircraft, especially in hot weather. Be safe – take the additional loads so as not to overload the aircraft.

You can't spray every field. Turn down fields that have numerous wires, or wires arranged in a manner that makes an application there particularly dangerous. While all ag pilots have a strong desire to treat everything they can for a customer, there are some fields that should be turned down. Extra caution should be used with inexperienced pilots. Mentors, it's not acceptable to assign difficult fields to new pilots just because you're super busy. New pilots, it's ok to turn down a field or request advice on how to spray a field you have concerns about. If your concerns as a new pilot are ignored, it might be time to look for a new mentor.

When booking work, be realistic about how many acres your operation can treat within the required time frame. Agreeing to spray a customer's fields that you can't actually get done in a timely manner is a disservice to everyone. The customer does not get the results they paid for, and the industry gets a bad name when customers complain to other growers. Don't allow customers who have waited to the very last minute before deciding they want their fields treated to disrupt your planned work schedule and compromise safety.

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.