

Fly Safe Campaign



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.

MAINTAIN ACCIDENT AWARENESS

Don't become a statistic!

The NTSB has reported 30 ag accidents including two fatal accidents in 2017. A third fatal accident occurred in North Dakota last week. NAAA is awaiting details but news reports indicate an AT-602 crashed in foggy conditions.

BEWARE OF LOW-LEVEL INSTRUMENT CONDITIONS

The recent accident brings to mind that continued VFR flight into instrument weather conditions frequently doesn't end well – especially for ag aircraft not equipped for IFR flight. These events usually occur when weather conditions deteriorate and the pilot chooses to “scud-run” to maintain ground contact. Conditions continue to worsen until there is not enough visibility to turn around or the visibility deteriorates behind the aircraft.

Normally this happens in one of two situations. The first, and perhaps the most dangerous, is when bad weather conditions are encountered on a cross country flight or flying over unfamiliar territory to do itinerant work where the pilot does not know the area and is unaware of dangerous terrain or obstructions. The second situation occurs when flying in familiar areas which may lead to over-confidence. Pilots are more apt to take off to look at conditions for themselves and progress too far into the bad weather.

The best practice is to carefully check weather reports and forecasts before beginning the flight. Don't take off until the outcome of the flight is not in doubt. Otherwise, chances are that application conditions are not good for application anyway and the flight could end up costing your life. If you encounter instrument conditions, turn around immediately. Always leave yourself a way out!

Remember TFR Awareness

Check Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) before flying! FAA recommends you obtain TFR NOTAMs from FSS. Make sure you have proof that you made the effort to comply as verified by briefing records at FSS or by DUATS log in.

Make a “Fly Safe” Resolution Now!

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.