

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!

NTSB has reported 49 ag accidents including 5 fatal accidents so far this year. There has been one additional fatal accident not yet reported by NTSB.

STAY VFR AND AVOID IMC!

Visual flight rules (VFR) into instrument meteorological conditions (IMC) can be a deadly encounter for ag pilots. VFR into IMC accidents are unfortunately a regular occurrence within the ag community. Here are three short term steps and three long term steps to help prevent a VFR into IMC situation.

Short Term Steps

- 1. Educate yourself on weather patterns in the area you are working in and what weather services are available to you as an ag pilot.**
- 2. Obtain a weather briefing prior to flight for the areas that will be operated in.**
- 3. Recognize and avoid pressure (external or self-induced) to fly in less than desirable weather conditions.**

Long Term Steps

- 1. Consider obtaining your instrument rating.**
- 2. Consider installing onboard weather equipment in the aircraft that gives you real-time updates on the weather conditions in your area.**
- 3. Operators are encouraged to implement a risk assessment program to afford all personnel a means to evaluate weather conditions in the operational area to determine if proceeding with the mission is safe, or if flight operations should be delayed in order to preclude a possible VFR into IMC sequence.**

Taking a few extra steps to prevent a VFR into IMC is certainly worth your time as an ag pilot. You will live to fly another day and your loved ones will thank you!

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!