



Tulsa Glue Dobbers ~ Safety Tips and Reminders ~

At the beginning of each new flying season it is common that we're anxious to get back into the air and we often forget some of the safety guidelines that are there to help protect us and others. Having fun is our ultimate goal but we must do so in a manner that protects the safety of ourselves, our fellow members and our guest spectators. Accidents take only a nano-second to happen and can have devastating results that last a lifetime. In less than the time it takes for you to blink an eye, that propeller can take off your finger or hand or fly off into someone else. Likewise, once the aircraft is in the air it becomes a potential missile coming at you or another member at an alarming rate of speed. Bad news if it hits someone.

For these reasons AMA and TGD have implemented certain safety guidelines and codes that govern how we conduct ourselves in the pit areas, on the flight line and generally anywhere and anytime we are operating our aircraft. These safety codes are in place to help protect all of us from harm but it is up to us as individuals to operate our aircraft and conduct ourselves in a safe manner. As a pre-requisite to obtaining AMA and TGD membership, we all signed the applications stating that we have read and will abide by those codes and (although unstated) will otherwise conduct ourselves in a courteous and civil manner. As responsible adults our membership expects us to act accordingly.

Some of the more common safety violations include:

- ~ children and non pilots or spotters on the flight-line
- ~ not having a spotter when there are multiple aircraft in the air
- ~ personnel in front of or to the side of the propeller line of travel while starting the motor
- ~ flying against the established flight pattern
- ~ hovering over the runway or interrupting the flight pattern when others are in the air
- ~ flying west of the runway
- ~ pilots flying while not on the flight-line (sitting under the shelter while flying)
- ~ landing outside the designated landing area(s)
- ~ failure to thoroughly pre-flight an aircraft that has been sitting idle throughout the winter months
- ~ flying directly toward the flight-line and pit areas
- ~ taxiing unrestrained aircraft in the pits

AMA requires that each club have a designated "Safety Officer" whose responsibility is to see that all members abide by the AMA code. Since the official Safety Officer cannot be at the field all the time, our club also makes it the responsibility of each member to not only abide by both AMA and TGD safety codes but to call attention to other members who are acting in an unsafe manner and against AMA and TGD codes. This can be a bit touchy at times since not everyone has the knack for tactfully approaching a member and pointing out his transgression. So, don't be offended if another member approaches you about your particular activity. Just remember that we're in this sport to have fun while being safe. Common sense and courtesy toward fellow members go a lot further toward making that happen than any set of guidelines or rules.

Officers will make the rounds from time to time to check on safety issues and check to be sure everyone is a paid-up member. So if you haven't renewed your membership please do so.

Safety requires constant vigilance by everyone, 100% of the time. Having fun requires staying safe, being courteous toward fellow members and using plain old common sense – treat others as you want to be treated. So let's all pull together and have some fun!