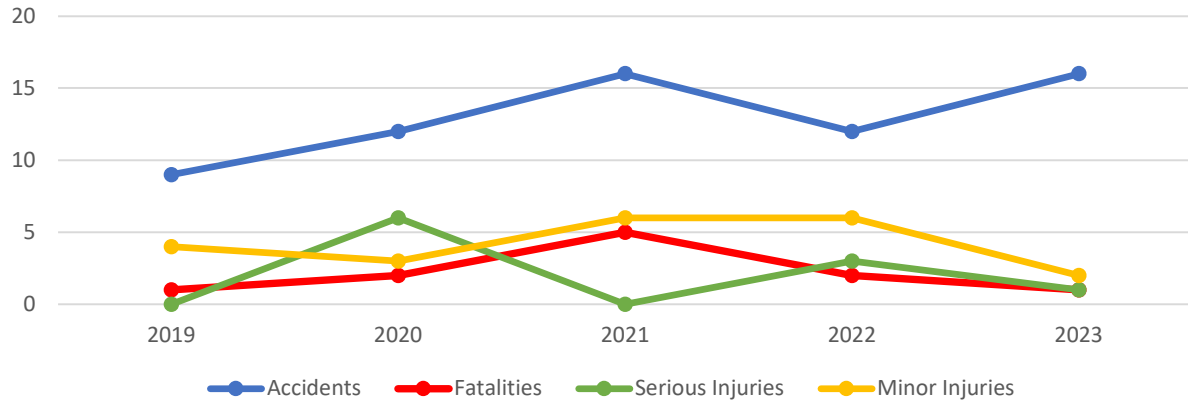


## 2023 Iowa Aviation Accident Summary

Figure 1. Five Year Accident Trend



### Overall Summary

There were 16 aviation accidents with one fatality and one aviation incident in the state of Iowa from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. This was a 33% increase from 2022, and the state has averaged 13 accidents over the last five years. Here's what we know:

- 10 accidents and zero fatalities occurred during Part 91 flight operations; four accidents and one fatality occurred during Part 137 aerial application operations; and one accident occurred during Part 135 Non-Scheduled Air Taxi & Commuter operations.
- There was one fatality and two reported injuries (one serious and one minor).
- 14 aircraft sustained substantial damage and one minor damage.
- One pilot held an Airline Transport Pilot certificate, six had a Commercial Pilot's License, and three had a Private Pilot License appropriate for the Category and Class of aircraft they were operating. Five of the accident reports did not indicate the type of certificate held by the pilot.
- 13 of the 16 accidents were under visual meteorological conditions. Conditions for the other two accidents are not reported.
- 14 flights occurred during daytime and one flight was during nighttime.
- 12 of the aircraft involved airplanes, three were helicopters, and two were not reported.
- Six accidents occurred within the airport environment (Red Oak, Osceola, Sibley, Larchwood, Ankeny, and Council Bluffs).

### Fatalities Summary

One flight involved a single fatality with a helicopter conducting aerial application that impacted wires. The NTSB report indicated that the pilot failed to identify the wires due to possible distractions. The accident caused substantial damage to the aircraft and the pilot was hospitalized, but later succumbed to injuries.

## **Summary of Accidents in the Airport Environment**

There were six aviation accidents that occurred within the airport environment from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Five accidents occurred during the landing phase of the flight and one during takeoff. Here's a review of the accidents we know about:

- At the Red Oak Municipal Airport, a pilot operating a Cirrus SR22 reported engine problems and diverted to the Red Oak Municipal Airport. Even with repeated warnings from ATC, the pilot landed the aircraft on RW 05 which was closed. The aircraft struck a barricade which resulted in substantial damage. No injuries were reported.
- At the Osceola Municipal Airport, a pilot lost directional control while conducting a landing in a Cessna 180. The flight instructor was not able to intervene in a timely manner which resulted in the aircraft veering off the runway and the airplane ground looped causing substantial damage. No injuries were reported.
- At the Sibley Municipal Airport, a pilot operating a Taylorcraft BC-65 failed to maintain adequate airspeed on final approach resulting in the airplane inadvertently exceeding the critical angle of attack and entered an inadvertent aerodynamic stall. This hard landing caused substantial damage to the fuselage and right wing. No injuries were reported.
- At the Larchwood Airport, a pilot operating a Bellanca 8KCAB performed a takeoff from the taxiway. The pilot pitched up and stalled the aircraft. The aircraft impacted the ground and cartwheeled causing substantial damage. The pilot received serious injuries and the passenger received minor injuries.
- At the Ankeny Regional Airport, a pilot operating a North American T-6 aircraft landed with the gear up causing substantial damage. The pilot and his passenger exited the airplane and a post-accident fire ensued. No injuries were reported.
- At the Council Bluffs Municipal Airport, a pilot operating a Cessna 182 experienced loss of engine power for reasons that could not be determined while sequencing to land. The pilot executed a forced landing in a harvested field near the airport and struck a terrace. This caused substantial damage to the aircraft. No injuries were reported.

## **Summary of Accidents Off Airport**

There were 10 aviation accidents and one incident that occurred in 2023 away from the airport environment. Four accidents and one event occurred during the enroute phase of flight. One accident occurred shortly after takeoff and the pilot was unable to make a return to the airport. Four of the accidents happened at low altitudes while conducting aerial applications under Part 137. Here's a review of the accidents we know about:

- A pilot operating a Cirrus SR22T under Part 91 near Davenport, IA reported smoke from the engine cowling and oil splattered the windscreen. The aircraft lost all engine power, and the pilot executed a forced landing to a corn field. During the landing the airplane's landing gear collapsed and caused substantial damage. No injuries were reported.
- A Cessna Citation 560XL operating under Part 91 near Council Bluffs, IA reportedly struck a bird enroute to Omaha-Eppley Airfield. There was substantial damage to the aircraft and no injuries were reported.
- A pilot operating a Cessna 172G under Part 91 near Neola, IA made a forced landing while enroute from Sac City, IA to Council Bluffs, IA. The aircraft sustained substantial damage and there were no injuries reported.

**Note: This Accident Summary relies on reports from NTSB and FAA which are subject to change. Source of information is from NTSB.gov as of 01/18/2024.**

- A pilot operating a Bellanca 17-31A during the day under Part 91 near Maurice, IA received substantial damage and no injuries were reported. The possible cause of the accident is still under investigation.
- A pilot operating a Bell 206B during the day near Denison, IA was conducting an aerial application flight under Part 137 when he failed to see and avoid wires. Upon impacting wires and terrain, the aircraft received substantial damage. The pilot was hospitalized but succumbed to his injuries 18 days later.
- A pilot operating an Air Tractor AT-402B near Alta, IA was conducting an aerial application flight under Part 137 over a cultivated field when he encountered a dust devil. This caused the aircraft to lose lift and impact powerlines causing damage to the rudder. Without directional control, the pilot made an emergency landing in the field he was spraying. This caused substantial damage to the aircraft and no injuries were reported.
- A pilot operating a Robinson R44 near Hanlontown, IA was conducting an aerial application flight under part 137 when he failed to maintain clearance to wires and struck a cable with his tail rotor. This caused substantial damage to the aircraft and no injuries were reported.
- A pilot operating a Robinson R44 near Charles City, IA was conducting an aerial application flight under part 137. He returned to the load truck to receive additional product and failed to realize there was remaining product aboard the aircraft. After taking on an additional 60 gallons, they inadvertently exceeded the gross weight of the helicopter. After departing to apply the product, the aircraft experienced a decay in rotor rpm and settled into an adjacent corn field. This caused substantial damage to the aircraft and no injuries were reported.
- A pilot operating a Berkut 540 under Part 91 near Cedar Rapids, IA experienced partial loss of engine power. The pilot decided to return to the airport prior to completely losing engine power. He made a forced landing to a road because he could not make the airport. The airplane safely landed onto a gravel road, but unfortunately encountered a bump which caused the airplane to veer left and impact a road sign and tree. The aircraft received substantial damage and no injuries were reported.
- A crew operating a Gulfstream G-IV from Philadelphia, PA to Sonoma, CA under Part 135 experienced a failure of the No. 2 (right) engine. The crew secured the engine, declared an emergency, and diverted to Sioux Gateway Airport where they made an uneventful single engine landing. The aircraft received minor damage and there were no injuries reported.
- A pilot operating a Cessna 150J at night from Moberly, MO to Davenport, IA under Part 91 experienced a loss of engine power. The pilot attempted a forced landing to a road, but a wind gust caused the airplane to impact a light pole. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and both wings. The pilot was not injured, but the passenger received minor injuries.

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