

First AT502B Retrofit Seatbelt Airbag Installed in Canada

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By: Cheryl Denesowych, Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd.

Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd. is very excited to congratulate Brian & Mark Kinniburgh of Fox Coulee Aviation in Drumheller Alberta on the installation of their AmSafe® Seat-Belt Airbag in their 1999 Air Tractor 502B.



Fox Coulee is the first Ag-Aviation company in Canada to install the Air Tractor retro-fit kit. Seat-belt airbags are now standard equipment in new Air Tractors. The STC for retro-fits on older model AT401, 402, 502 and 602 aircraft was finalized in late 2009. Brian Kinniburgh commented, "We are excited to have this new safety enhancement in our aircraft. We strive to be a progressive company and pilot safety is our number one priority."

The install was done on May 6th at Fox Coulee's facility in Drumheller. Yorkton Aircraft supplied the install team of Neal Poersch and Tom Kindjerski. Richard Heitzman, Technical Sales Manager for AmSafe®, flew in from San Antonio Texas to oversee this install. The kit was installed by the 2-man YAS team in about 4 hours.

While in Drumheller, Richard conducted an AmSafe training session. "We watched some of the videos on the testing of these kits," says Brian. "After witnessing the crash test dummies post impact condition I was definitely convinced that this restraint is a worthwhile investment. These bags should be in every Ag-Aviation cockpit."

"I'm pleased Air Tractor has made AmSafe® seat-belt airbags standard equipment in all new aircraft. And now being able to install them in older models is a big safety advancement for our industry," states Brian.

This particular installation has an interesting story. Brian's son Mark, who flies an Ag Truck in their operation, actually purchased the Seat-Belt Air Bag Kit for his father at the CAAA Auction in February. "I knew Air Tractor was supplying a kit at the auction and I had made my mind up that I was buying it for dad," explains Mark. Now Brian says he wishes there was a kit approved for installation in Ag Trucks. "For sure we would install one!" Richard of AmSafe was part of this conversation and he has taken the word back to his company that these seat-belt air bags are needed and wanted for other models of Ag planes.



Brian smiles and says, "I have 3 cats at home and they have 9 lives each. I only have one. Installing this equipment just makes sense. For anyone in Canada that is interested in these bags Yorkton Aircraft Service is an Authorized AmSafe® distributor and they know their stuff."

To learn more about this technology contact Yorkton Aircraft. To look at a video demonstration on this equipment visit their website at www.yorktonaircraft.com.

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