

Airbags in Air Tractors – Now Available in Canada

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By: Cheryl Denesowych, Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd.

Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd. is very excited to announce their appointment as an AmSafe Authorized Dealer & Certification Centre.

AmSafe is a Phoenix-based company manufacturing the only airbag restraint system available to aircraft owners. With the launch of a series of retrofit kits for the General Aviation market and Air Tractor models, the technology keeping vehicle passengers safe for a long time is finally available to Air Tractor ag pilots. What a breakthrough!

The team at Yorkton Aircraft Service recently completed their Installation and Maintenance Training for the inflatable restraint system. Their certification enables them to sell, install, certify and re-certify the equipment as required. "This technology is absolutely amazing. It could very well be the most progressive safety offering to the Ag Aviation Industry that we have seen in a long time," says Cheryl Denesowych, of Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd.

The airbag is stored in the torso section of the 4- and 5- point systems. The AmSafe system uses the original harness mounting points and does not interface with the aircraft wiring or power system making installation relatively easy.

Are these systems proven? AmSafe has over 50,000 systems delivered to both commercial and general aviation. The Inflatable Restraint systems are flying on 30 airlines and are installed in over 5000 General Aviation aircraft with over 13,000 seat placements. . Since coming to market, there has NEVER been an inadvertent deployment of the system except at installation and maintenance.

The airbag shields the occupants' head and upper torso from severe trauma caused by impact with instrument panels and other surfaces. "I call this Smart Technology – it is so advanced! The AmSafe system can differentiate a bad landing and excessive turbulence from an impending crash. When deployed, it is instantaneous and the airbag deflates within 10 seconds to enable the surviving occupant to exit the aircraft quickly," states Cheryl.

The AmSafe Aviation Inflatable Restraint is now standard equipment on newly manufactured Air Tractors as well as these General Aviation models: Cessna, Piper, Cirrus, Mooney, Zenith, Diamond, Hawker Beechcraft, Sportair, Lancair, Aviat . Retrofit kits are available for certain models of Cessna, Piper, Mooney, Beech, Aviat, Lancair, Zenith and Air Tractor. "Their retro-fit list is expected to expand rapidly," explains Cheryl.

To learn more about this technology and look at a video demonstration visit Yorkton Aircraft's website at www.yorktonaircraft.com.

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