Safety Message

Airborne conflict in uncontrolled Class G airspace

Issued: 2026-07

112 close calls have been reported to CAA since the beginning of 2025.

The traffic most likely to hit you is the traffic you'll never see.

In Class G airspace, separation relies on pilot vigilance—but even experienced pilots can miss traffic. Close calls often occur, not because nobody looked, but because of a combination of poor scanning habits, human visual limitations, aircraft blind spots, high closing speeds, and reduced situational awareness.

While many of these events occurred at unattended aerodromes, a significant number also occurred in enroute uncontrolled airspace, demonstrating the need for pilots to remain vigilant throughout all phases of flight.

Remember:

- **Scan systematically** — don't fixate on one area.
- **Move your head and clear blind spots** during turns, climbs, and descents.
- **Look far enough ahead** and stay focused outside the cockpit.
- **Make and monitor radio calls** and never assume others know where you are (get your free ***Plane talking*** GAP booklet at aviation.govt.nz/order)
- **Use all available defences**, including transponders selected to ALT and traffic awareness systems where fitted.
- **Refresh your knowledge** of the ***Work Together, Stay Apart*** safety campaign messages. (Resources available on the CAA website's Safety Initiatives page)

Stay vigilant, stay aware, and help keep Class G safe for everyone.

See and avoid starts with you