



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Newport, AR	Accident Number:	FTW01LA147
Date & Time:	06/18/2001, 2000 CDT	Registration:	N6082B
Aircraft:	Air Tractor AT-502B	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

During takeoff from a grass airstrip behind another agricultural airplane of the same type, the agricultural airplane encountered wake turbulence. The pilot turned the airplane to the left to "try and get out of it." The airplane's left wing and left main landing gear struck the ground, the airplane bounced on its right wing, and landed on its empennage. Subsequently, the airplane came to rest upright in a field. The pilot stated that the accident could have been prevented if he had waited "about one more minute" before taking off.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the loss of control during takeoff initial climb as a result of encountering wake turbulence due to the pilot's failure to recognize the hazard and delay the takeoff.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (F) WAKE TURBULENCE - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	6808 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3500 hours (Total, this make and model), 6550 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 350 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 300 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N6082B
Model/Series:	AT-502B	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	Ellis Flying Service Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-34
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	32° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Newport, AR	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	18	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 90 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Douglas Wigington

Adopted Date: 09/27/2001

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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