



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Mitchell, SD | Accident Number: | CHI03LA243 |
| Date & Time: | 08/02/2003, 0740 CDT | Registration: | N4923X |
| Aircraft: | Rockwell International S-2R | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 1 Minor |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 137: Agricultural | | |

On August 2, 2003, about 0740 central daylight time, a Rockwell International S-2R, N4923X, was destroyed following an in-flight collision with power lines during an aerial application flight near Mitchell, South Dakota. The airplane subsequently impacted a tree and terrain and burned in a post-impact ground fire. The pilot reported minor injuries. The aerial application flight was being operated under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 137 without a flight plan. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The local flight originated from MJ Aviation Airport I, near Letcher, South Dakota, at 0700.

The pilot reported that he circled the field to look for obstacles and then started spraying. He said that his airplane's main landing gear caught the wires that ran through the middle of the field. He stated:

I proceeded forward straight [and] level across I-90 until [the] wires broke.

At this time I lost control hit a tree and crashed at approximately

7:40 AM. I [immediately] removed seatbelt, helmet, and evacuated

aircraft. I ran up to house got owner to call 911 and washed chemical

off my skin with garden hose. At this time aircraft burst into flames,

which were extinguished by Mitchell Fire [and] Rescue.

The pilot stated that there were no mechanical malfunctions during the flight. His recommendation was, "Take ample time to observe all obstacles and give them respect."

Pilot Information

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 31, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Seat Occupied: | Center |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | Seatbelt, Shoulder harness |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim. | Last FAA Medical Exam: | 07/01/2003 |
| Occupational Pilot: | | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 01/12/2003 |
| Flight Time: | 1524 hours (Total, all aircraft), 947 hours (Total, this make and model), 1409 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 302 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 128 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Rockwell International | Registration: | N4923X |
| Model/Series: | S-2R | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Restricted | Serial Number: | 2119R |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 1 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 04/01/2003, Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 6000 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 285 Hours | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 7441 Hours at time of accident | Engine Manufacturer: | Pratt & Whitney |
| ELT: | Not installed | Engine Model/Series: | R-1340-ANI |
| Registered Owner: | M J AVIATION INC | Rated Power: | 600 hp |
| Operator: | M J AVIATION INC | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | MJAG |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | MHE, 1303 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 8 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 0759 CDT | Direction from Accident Site: | 360° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 10 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 5 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 350° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.02 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 18° C / 16° C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | Letcher, SD (SD01) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Letcher, SD (SD01) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 0700 CDT | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Wreckage and Impact Information

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Minor | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | On-Ground |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Minor | Latitude, Longitude: | |

Administrative Information

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Edward F Malinowski |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Dan Walsh; Federal Aviation Administration; Rapid City, SD |
| Investigation Docket: | NTSB accident and incident docket 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/ . |