



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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

Analysis

The airplane was destroyed following an in-flight collision with power lines during a low-level aerial application pass. The airplane subsequently impacted a tree and terrain. The airplane was burned in a post-impact ground fire. The pilot reported that he circled 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 that he lost control of the aircraft and it impacted a tree and terrain. After exiting the airplane, it subsequently burst into flames. 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."

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate visual lookout and not maintaining clearance from the power line during the low level aerial application maneuver. A related factor was the power line.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	M J AVIATION INC	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	R-1340-ANI
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MHE, 1303 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 350°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Letcher, SD (SD01)	Destination:	Letcher, SD (SD01)

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Edward F Malinowski	Adopted Date:	03/02/2004
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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