



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Hillsboro, AL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL04CA146
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/02/2004, 2005 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N9089L
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor AT-402A	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## Analysis

According to the pilot, the airplane collided with the top wire of a transmission tower that "was not visible to [him]." He stated that the airplane spun around 180 degrees to the left, the airplane "was out of control," collided with the ground, and came to rest inverted in a nearby field. Examination of the wreckage site revealed the wreckage debris path extended across the field a distance of 75 feet leading up to the main wreckage site. The tower arm of the transmission tower, that was estimated to be 100 feet high, was bent, and the upper transmission wire was separated. Examination of the wreckage revealed that the engine assembly separated from the engine mounts. The propeller hub was separated from the crankshaft. The engine cowling and fuselage were crushed aft to the pilot compartment. The right wingtip was separated. The leading edge of the right wing was crushed beginning about midspan outboard to the end of the wing. The left wing was partially separated at the root and completely separated approximately midspan. The left horizontal stabilizer leading edge was crushed aft.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate visual lookout and failure to maintain adequate obstacle clearance, which resulted in collision with transmission wires.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
  2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	27
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Air Tractor	<b>Registration:</b>	N9089L
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT-402A	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo Prop
<b>Operator:</b>	Buster Thornton	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Pratt & Whitney
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	PT6A
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Dusk
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	kdcu, 592 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 3600 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	6 knots / , 180°
<b>Temperature:</b>	26° C	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Courtland, AL (9A4)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Lawrence County Airport (9A4)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Used:</b>	NA	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	34.633333, -87.200000		

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Philip Powell	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	06/28/2006
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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