



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Garden City, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DFW06CA149
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/01/2006, 1100 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N7318C
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor AT-401	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Flight Test		

## Analysis

The non-instrument rated commercial pilot departed on a maintenance test flight in a single-engine agricultural airplane. During the test flight the airplane's radial engine lost power and the pilot elected to execute a forced landing to a cotton field. The airplane sustained structural damage during the forced landing. There was no fire and the pilot was able to egress the airplane unassisted. The winds at the time of the accident were reported from 040 degrees at 11knots, gusting to 18 knots. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector, who traveled to the accident site, confirmed the airplane sustained structural damage during the forced landing. Additionally, the inspector reported that the aircraft ran out of fuel. Despite repeated attempts by the Investigator-In-Charge (IIC), the pilot failed to return a completed Pilot Operator Aircraft Accident Report Form (NTSB Form 6120.1).

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper in-flight planning resulting in the loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion. A contributing factor was the lack of suitable terrain for the forced landing.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

### Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	39
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 50 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	Air Tractor	<b>Registration:</b>	N7318C
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT-401	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	Roger Quinn	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Pratt & Whitney
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R-1820
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Flight Test		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	BPG	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	11 knots/ 18 knots, 40°
<b>Temperature:</b>	26° C / 16° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Garden City, TX	<b>Destination:</b>	Garden City, TX

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Craig R Hatch	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	11/29/2006
<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 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 <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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