



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Malden, MO	Accident Number:	CEN10CA185
Date & Time:	04/02/2010, 1020 CDT	Registration:	N3653T
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR AT-301	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that the airplane encountered a downdraft after completing an aerial application pass. While climbing away from the field, the airplane's right wing impacted a tree and the pilot performed an off-field landing instead of returning to the departure airport. The main landing gear collapsed during the landing in a rough field. A postimpact fire ensued on the right wing after the airplane came to rest. The airplane was substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation of the airplane.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Low altitude operation/event
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing - Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-landing roll - Landing gear collapse
Other - Fire/smoke (post-impact)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from a tree during an aerial application flight.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tree(s)-Response/compensation
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Rough terrain-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	26
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1388 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1004 hours (Total, this make and model), 1300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIR TRACTOR	Registration:	N3653T
Model/Series:	AT-301	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Aerial Farm Service	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	R1340AN-1
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPOF, 331 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots, 190°
Temperature:	18°C / 11°C	Visibility:	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Gideon, MO (KM85)	Destination:	Gideon, MO (KM85)

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew T Fox	Adopted Date:	08/12/2010
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75636		

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