



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Gregory, AR	Accident Number:	CEN11CA098
Date & Time:	12/02/2010, 0930 CST	Registration:	N9145H
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT-602	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot departed on his third aerial application flight for the day. Shortly after take-off, the engine lost power and the pilot elected to conduct a forced landing in a field. During touchdown, the airplane landed hard and received substantial damage. After the accident, the pilot reported that this was the first flight since refueling the airplane. The pilot also added that he did not check the fuel supply, prior to refueling the airplane. An examination of the airplane and refueling tanks, after the accident, revealed water was present in the fuel.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate preflight inspection and failure to detect water contaminated fuel, which resulted in a loss of engine power during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Inadequate inspection (Cause) Fuel - Not specified (Cause)
Personnel issues	Preflight inspection - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Fuel contamination Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Single
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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	12/04/2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	11/15/2010
Flight Time:	16500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6500 hours (Total, this make and model), 16500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 200 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N9145H
Model/Series:	AT-602	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	602-0630
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/20/2010, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	3564 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W CANADA
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	JT15D 5 SER
Registered Owner:	REYNOLDS FLYING SERVICE INC	Rated Power:	2900 lbs
Operator:	REYNOLDS FLYING SERVICE INC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 150°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Gregory, AR (NA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Gregory, AR (NA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	CST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Private (NA)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Craig Hatch	Adopted Date:	10/06/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	John Grubber; FAA FSDO; Little Rock, AR		
Publish Date:	10/06/2011		
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=77954		

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