



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Ganado, TX	Accident Number:	CEN12CA221
Date & Time:	04/02/2012, 0910 CDT	Registration:	N4544S
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT-402A	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

On the day before the accident, the pilot installed dry fertilizer equipment on the airplane. Later that afternoon, the pilot removed the dry fertilizer equipment and installed spray booms and a spray pump in preparation for dispensing a liquid chemical the next day. The following day, during the takeoff roll, chemicals started covering the windshield, and the windshield washer had no effect. The pilot lost all outside visual references and was unable to maintain level flight. The airplane impacted the ground and slid to a stop. Postaccident examination revealed that the hopper vent had not been turned around. The hopper was still pressurized and chemicals blew out of the hopper lid onto the windshield.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Loss of visual reference

Takeoff - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The improper positioning of the hopper vent, which allowed chemicals to escape and cover the airplane's windshield.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft structures-Windows-windshield system-(general)-Damaged/degraded

Aircraft-Aircraft handling/service-Loading-(general)-Incorrect use/operation - C

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action selection-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	34
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 550 hours (Total, this make and model), 3550 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 90 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 52 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N4544S
Model/Series:	AT-402A	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	NELSON FLYING SERVICE	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-27
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2500 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 140°
Temperature:	21° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Granado, TX (NONE)	Destination:	Granado, TX (NONE)

Airport Information

Airport:	Coastal Flying Service (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf; Gravel
Runway Used:	16	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3000 ft / 25 ft		

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Arnold W Scott	Adopted Date:	05/21/2012
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=83279		

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