



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Wellton, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR14CA003
Date & Time:	10/01/2013, 2130 MST	Registration:	N402TR
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT 402B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was reading a map in an effort to identify the correct field to spray while maneuvering at low altitude in dark night conditions. While maneuvering in a turn the pilot did not realize the airplane was descending and subsequently collided with terrain. The wings and fuselage were substantially damaged. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's distracted attention and failure to maintain sufficient altitude to clear terrain while maneuvering in dark night conditions.

Findings

Aircraft	Altitude - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Attention - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Dark - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
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:	05/30/2013
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3000 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N402TR
Model/Series:	AT 402B B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	402B-1216
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/16/2013, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	68 Hours	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	3094 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT 6-34 AG
Registered Owner:	TRI ROTOR SPRAY AND CHEMICAL INC	Rated Power:	750 hp
Operator:	TRI ROTOR SPRAY AND CHEMICAL INC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Agricultural Aircraft (137)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	21 °C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 90°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.98 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation; In the Vicinity - No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Somerton, AZ	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Wellton, AZ	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	2100 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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):	Debra J Eckrote	Adopted Date:	11/19/2013
Additional Participating Persons:	Tina Buskirk; FAA FDSO; Scottsdale, AZ		
Publish Date:	11/19/2013		
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=88172		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.