



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Wellton, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR14CA003
Date & Time:	10/01/2013, 2130 MST	Registration:	N402TR
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT 402B	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.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Attention-Pilot - C

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Dark-Effect on operation

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	TRI ROTOR SPRAY AND CHEMICAL INC	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Agricultural Aircraft (137)	Engine Model/Series:	PT 6-34 AG
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:	None
Condition of Light:	Night/Dark	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 90°
Temperature:	21° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation; In the Vicinity - No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Somerton, AZ	Destination:	Wellton, AZ

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):	Debra J Eckrote	Adopted 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.

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