



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	Portales, NM	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA17CA360
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/22/2017, 1600 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N700LA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	AIR TRACTOR INC AT 502	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

---

The pilot reported that, during an aerial application flight while maneuvering at the destination field in a left turn, he realized that the airplane was not going to be able to climb over transmission lines in his flight path. He added that he lowered the nose to fly under the transmission lines, but the "airspeed was still too low" and the airplane impacted an embankment, slid across the ground for about 100 ft., and nosed over.

The airplane was destroyed by the impact and a post-crash fire.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

An automated weather observation station, 10 nautical miles north of the accident, about 5 minutes before the accident, reported the wind as calm, temperature 102°F (39°C), dewpoint 43°F (6°C), and barometric setting of 29.77" Hg. The calculated density altitude was 8,200 ft.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration Koch Chart, when considering the surrounding temperature and field elevation, the airplane would have likely experienced a 65% decrease in the normal climb rate.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	32, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Unknown
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	02/06/2017
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	07/17/2016
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 2050 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1326 hours (Total, this make and model), 1900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 75 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	AIR TRACTOR INC	<b>Registration:</b>	N700LA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT 502 B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2004	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted	<b>Serial Number:</b>	502B-0700
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	05/17/2017, 100 Hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	9400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo Prop
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	6435 Hours as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W Canada
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	PT6A-34AG
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	KING AG LEASING INC.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	750 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	King AG Aviation Inc.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	Agricultural Aircraft (137)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCVS, 4295 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2158 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	10°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 13000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.77 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	39° C / 6° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SUDAN, TX (XA05)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	SUDAN, TX (XA05)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1630 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.263333, -103.353056 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Adam M Gerhardt
Additional Participating Persons:	Steven E Miller; FAA/ FSDO; Lubbock, TX
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=95424">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=95424</a>