



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Edna, TX	Accident Number:	GAA17CA385
Date & Time:	07/02/2017, 1040 CDT	Registration:	N6135P
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT 502	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while maneuvering at low altitude over a field during an agricultural application flight, he was focused on the top of electrical poles that paralleled the field. He added that he crossed between the electrical poles and was focused on the pole to the right of the airplane. Once he crossed the top wire, he focused his attention forward, but added that he "was staring at a 30-ft tower just to the left of the nose" of the airplane. The airplane struck the tower and then impacted the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident 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 failure to see and avoid a tower during an agricultural application flight.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Monitoring environment-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tower/antenna (incl guy wires)-Effect on operation - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6499 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2081 hours (Total, this make and model), 6499 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 171 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N6135P
Model/Series:	AT 502 B	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	COASTAL FLYING SERVICE INC	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural Aircraft (137)	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-34
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KVCT, 115 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 160°
Temperature:	32° C	Visibility	9 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Ganado, TX	Destination:	Ganado, TX

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
Latitude, Longitude:	28.986111, -96.758889 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jackie L Vanover	Adopted Date:	01/23/2018
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=95503		

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