



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Rockford, OH	Accident Number:	GAA19CA303
Date & Time:	05/31/2019, 1930 EDT	Registration:	N60518
Aircraft:	Air Tractor AT502	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during an agricultural application flight, he flew under power lines, climbed, and then made a 180° left turn to the south for another low-level pass. While approaching the field, the airplane struck the power lines and then impacted terrain. The pilot added that he forgot the wires were there and did not see them on the pass. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and the tail cone. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 failure to maintain clearance from power lines during an agricultural application flight.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Wire - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	45, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/08/2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	11/21/2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2684 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1122 hours (Total, this make and model), 2273 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 22.8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N60518
Model/Series:	AT502 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1996	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	502B-0346
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/11/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	8261 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt and Whitney
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6-34AG
Registered Owner:	Neal Aircraft Inc	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Neal Aircraft Inc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural Aircraft (137)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KVNW, 781 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2315 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	9°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Van Wert, OH (VNW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Van Wert, OH (VNW)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1830 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	40.614167, -84.000000 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eleazar Nepomuceno	Report Date:	04/13/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Todd Caruso; FAA; Columbus, OH		
Publish Date:	04/13/2020		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=99529		

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. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).