



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Waco, NE	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA19CA480
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/04/2019, 1230 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N730JD
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor AT502	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Low altitude operation/event	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

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## Analysis

The pilot reported that, during an agricultural application flight, he circled the intended spray field looking for obstacles and noted a "big tower" and saw guy wires. He stated that he then approached the field from the south and began looking for the previously seen wires but that he "must have gotten fixated on the lower wires," and the airplane struck wires he had not seen. The airplane pitched up to the right, the wires broke, and the airplane surged forward. He subsequently maneuvered and landed the airplane on a nearby field.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing and engine mounts.

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 wires during an agricultural application flight.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Monitoring environment - Pilot (Cause)
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Wire - Effect on operation (Cause)

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

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

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	55, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/04/2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/08/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 9000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2220 hours (Total, this make and model), 9000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 300 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N730JD
Model/Series:	AT502 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2012	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	502B-2819
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	2220 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W Canda
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-34AG
Registered Owner:	Sky Tech Inc	Rated Power:	750 hp
Operator:	Sky Tech 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:	KJYR, 1664 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1735 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	245°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3100 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.08 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28° C / 22° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fairmont, NE (FMZ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Fairmont, NE (FMZ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1130 CDT	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	Latitude, Longitude:	40.937778, -97.502222 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kathryn R Benhoff	Report Date:	02/11/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Donald Kendall; FAA; Lincoln, NE		
Publish Date:	02/11/2020		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=99993">http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=99993</a>		

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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](#).