



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Mamou, LA	Accident Number:	CEN20CA153
Date & Time:	04/21/2020, 1800 CDT	Registration:	N653LA
Aircraft:	Air Tractor AT 602	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that the turf airstrip had a "sunken area," which created a "ramp." During takeoff, the airplane encountered this portion of the airstrip and became "airborne prematurely." The airplane subsequently settled into ground effect; however, the left wing impacted a small tree near the end of the runway, and the airplane then pitched "downward and left," and the airplane was unable to maintain altitude. The airplane impacted a field off the end of the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings and fuselage. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 airplane's encounter with a sunken area during takeoff from a turf runway, which resulted in the airplane becoming prematurely airborne and impacting a tree and then terrain.

Findings

Environmental issues

Tree(s) - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event) Loss of control in flight
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	45, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/04/2020
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	01/08/2019
Flight Time:	7700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 756 hours (Total, this make and model), 7618 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 125 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 80 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N653LA
Model/Series:	AT 602 No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2002	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	602-0653
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/17/2020, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	12500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hours	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	9550 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney Canada
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-60AG
Registered Owner:	Central Farmers Cooperative	Rated Power:	1050 hp
Operator:	Central Farmers Cooperative	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural Aircraft (137)
Operator Does Business As:	Central Farmers Flying Service	Operator Designator Code:	SIRG

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ACP, 107 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1755 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	282°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28° C / 15° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Mamou, LA (PVT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mamou, LA (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1810 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Deculus Satellite Airstrip (N/A)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	65 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry; Rough
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3550 ft / 70 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	30.589444, -92.427778

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy Sorensen	Report Date:	06/29/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael J Stanley; FAA Flight Standards; Baton Rouge, LA		
Publish Date:	06/29/2020		
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=101192		

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