



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Americus, Georgia	Accident Number:	GAA19CA078
Date & Time:	November 28, 2018, 10:15 Local	Registration:	N843WA
Aircraft:	Air Tractor AT 502	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during an agricultural application flight, he surveyed a field before spraying and saw multiple power lines and poles. While spraying the field and after turning, about 20 ft above the ground, he pulled up and immediately felt "a massive jerk" and saw a "flash" due to the airplane's nose striking a power wire. The airplane entered a descending turn to an open field adjacent to the spray field. The pilot pushed the power lever forward but did not get a response. During the forced landing, the right wing struck a tree, the airplane rotated 180°, and the left wing and empennage impacted the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and fuselage.

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 see and avoid a power line during an agricultural application flight.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Aircraft	Altitude - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Wire - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 11, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 12, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2537 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 2537 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 250 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Tractor	Registration:	N843WA
Model/Series:	AT 502 Undesignat	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1988	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	502-0011
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 29, 2018 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo prop
Airframe Total Time:	14124.6 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-34
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	750 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural aircraft (137)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KACJ, 468 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	52°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	5°C / -9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Americus, GA (ACJ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Americus, GA (ACJ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	32.039722, -84.294166(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Danny Cox; FAA; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98698

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