



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Pocahontas, Arkansas	Accident Number:	GAA17CA342
Date & Time:	June 15, 2017, 13:00 Local	Registration:	N915AJ
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT 802	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The agricultural application pilot reported that, during the initial climb and as soon as the airplane "broke ground," he turned left and subsequently encountered turbulence that caused the left wing to "dip." He added that he applied full right aileron and rudder but that the airplane continued to sink and turn left. Subsequently, the left wing impacted terrain, the airplane cartwheeled, and a postcrash fire ensued.

The fuselage, empennage, and both wings sustained substantial damage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

An automated weather observation station, 12 nautical miles south of the accident site, reported, about the time of the accident, calm wind, clear skies, temperature 84°F (29°C), and dew point 64°F (18°C).

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 lateral/bank control during the initial climb in turbulent conditions.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Climb rate - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Turbulence encounter
Initial climb	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Initial climb	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	48,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-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:	January 27, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 25, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 11313 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4217 hours (Total, this make and model), 11278 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 225 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N915AJ
Model/Series:	AT 802 A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2014	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	802A-0566
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 25, 2017 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	16500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo prop
Airframe Total Time:	1045 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W Canada
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-65AG
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
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:	KARG,300 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Pocahontas, AR	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Pocahontas, AR	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	36.221668,-90.834724(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	Doug Ragsdale ; FAA/ FSDO; Little Rock, AR
Original Publish Date:	September 7, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=95379

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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](#).