



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Vernalis, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR23LA120
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 3, 2023, 12:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N48492
<b>Aircraft:</b>	GRUMMAN ACFT ENG COR- SCHWEIZER G-164B	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Low altitude operation/event	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

The pilot reported he was spraying near power lines during an aerial application flight. He made several passes beneath a power line; however, during a subsequent pass, the pilot became distracted and struck the power line. The airplane impacted the ground and was destroyed by post-crash fire. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operations.

## 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 a power line during a low-level aerial application flight.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Monitoring environment - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Wire - Awareness of condition
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Wire - Effect on equipment



## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Maneuvering-low-alt flying</b>	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
<b>Maneuvering-low-alt flying</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	60,
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	November 29, 2022
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	April 22, 2021
<b>Flight Time:</b>	17000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 16000 hours (Total, this make and model), 15000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	GRUMMAN ACFT ENG COR-SCHWEIZER	<b>Registration:</b>	N48492
<b>Model/Series:</b>	G-164B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1976	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	47B
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	200 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo prop
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Pratt & Whitney
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	1340/an-1
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	D C APPLICATOR	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	Agricultural aircraft (137)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	D C AppliCATOR	<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KMOD,87 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	13 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	12:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	92°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	9 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	270°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.01 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	13°C / 4°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Vernalis, CA (CA67)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Vernalis, CA (CA67)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:10 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.63118,-121.23477(est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Basti, Paymaun
Additional Participating Persons:	David Lowther; Oakland FSDO; Oakland, CA
Original Publish Date:	June 23, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106836">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106836</a>

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