



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Fabens, Texas	Accident Number:	GAA20CA033
Date & Time:	October 17, 2019, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N9033T
Aircraft:	Weatherly 620	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 made six passes underneath power wires to complete the applications. On the seventh pass underneath the power wires, the wire deflector cable and the vertical stabilizer struck the wires. The pilot asserted that the vertical stabilizer jammed the rudder to the left, and the airplane entered a skidding left turn and then impacted terrain. The airplane was consumed by fire.

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 power wires while maneuvering at a low altitude.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Wire - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Loss of control in flight
Post-impact	Fire/smoke (post-impact)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	79, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 29, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 13, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 25000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 50 hours (Total, this make and model), 24000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 250 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Weatherly	Registration:	N9033T
Model/Series:	620 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1996	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	1643
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	R985
Registered Owner:	Roger J. Zeledon DbA	Rated Power:	450 Horsepower
Operator:	Roger J. Zeledon DbA	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:	KELP,3918 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:25 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	338°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 25000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fabens, TX (E35)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Fabens, TX (E35)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	31.654722,-106.303337(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Steve Poiani ; FAA; Albuquerque, NM
Original Publish Date:	May 21, 2020
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=100450

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