



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	SOUTH HAVEN, Michigan	Accident Number:	CHI98LA214
Date & Time:	June 21, 1998, 21:15 Local	Registration:	N9209R
Aircraft:	Cessna 188B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

While conducting an aerial application maneuver the airplane's spray rig caught in bushes and the pilot was unable to regain control of the airplane prior to it impacting the trees and the terrain. After the accident an examination of the airplane failed to reveal any pre-accident anomalies which would have contributed to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot misjudging his distance and not maintaining the proper altitude. A factor was trees.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
2. (C) DISTANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

On June 21, 1998, at 2115 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 188B, N9209R, sustained substantial damage on impact with the terrain while making a swath run near South Haven, Michigan. The pilot said that the spray rig for dispensing chemicals caught in the bushes and the airplane was pulled into trees and the terrain. The pilot reported no injuries. The 14 CFR Part 137 aerial application flight was operating in visual meteorological conditions. No flight plan was on file for the local flight which departed South Haven about 2050.

The pilot said that he got too low and the spray rig caught in the bushes. He said he was unable to regain control of the airplane prior to it impacting with the trees and the terrain.

A post accident examination of the airplane failed to reveal any pre-accident anomalies which may have contributed to the accident.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 5, 1998
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	338 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 295 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9209R
Model/Series:	188B 188B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	18802154
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 10, 1997 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470-S
Registered Owner:	ROBERTSON CROP DUSTING SVC	Rated Power:	230 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	RCDG

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BIV ,689 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	15°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 17°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SOUTH HAVEN , MI (0D1)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	20:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

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:	42.400749,-86.269676(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wilson, Stephen
Additional Participating Persons:	FRANK S SCHAEFER; GRAND RAPIDS , MI
Original Publish Date:	February 15, 2001
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=10928

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