



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	ROCKY FORD, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN92LA062
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 20, 1992, 06:25 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3649D
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor AT-301	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

WHILE FLYING BETWEEN FIELDS ON AN AERIAL APPLICATION FLIGHT, THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED THE GROUND IN A SHALLOW DIVE WITH POWER ON THE ENGINE. WEATHER AT THE TIME WAS 800 FEET OVERCAST SKIES AND GROUND FOG.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOTS FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE DUE TO SPATIAL DISORIENTATION. FACTORS WERE: LOW OVERCAST SKIES AND GROUND FOG.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

### Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD
2. (C) ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	58, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	January 21, 1992
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	10249 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3290 hours (Total, this make and model), 141 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Air Tractor	<b>Registration:</b>	N3649D
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT-301 AT-301	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	301-0234
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 2, 1900 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	226 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R-1340AN-1
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	C & L FLYING SERVICE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	C & L FLYING SERVICE	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	NMNG

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 800 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	7 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	90°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	17°C / 14°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	N/A - None - Fog		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	00:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.039981,-103.720024(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Wiemeyer, Norman
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	WALT WISE; DENVER , CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	July 26, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18217">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18217</a>

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