



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MADERA, California	Accident Number:	LAX97LA100
Date & Time:	February 9, 1997, 11:50 Local	Registration:	N1900F
Aircraft:	Piper PA-22-150	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial application		

Analysis

The pilot failed to clear a power line during his twelfth pass while spraying pollen over an almond orchard. The pilot indicated there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane prior to the collision. The pilot did not hold an aerial application certificate under 14 CFR 137.

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 adequate clearance from obstructions and his inadequate visual outlook.

Findings

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

Findings

1. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT OBTAINED/MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On February 9, 1997, at 1150 hours Pacific standard time, a Piper PA-22-150, N1900F, collided with telephone wires near Madera, California. The airplane was destroyed and the certificated commercial pilot was not injured. The airplane was being operated as a aerial application flight by the pilot/owner. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the pilot did not hold an agricultural aircraft operator certificate under 14 CFR Part 137 when the accident occurred. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time.

The pilot indicated he was spraying pollen on an almond orchard. The pilot stated, "On entry of the twelvth [twelfth] pass from west to east I failed to clear [a] power line." The pilot also indicated there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane prior to the collision.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	55,U
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 6, 1996
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	617 hours (Total, all aircraft), 334 hours (Total, this make and model), 574 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N1900F
Model/Series:	PA-22-150 PA-22-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2651
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	72 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	HOFFRAGE, WILLIAM D.	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FAT ,333 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	23 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	108°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	3 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Haze		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

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

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	36.909294,-120.189483(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wilcox, Thomas
Additional Participating Persons:	JAMES B WILLIAMS; FRESNO , CA
Original Publish Date:	October 14, 1997
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29724

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