



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	FINLEY, Tennessee	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL99LA051
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 12, 1999, 11:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N36484
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor            301	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

During takeoff roll on Highway 181, the airplane encountered a gust of wind which blew the airplane off the asphalt surface. The airplane proceeded down an embankment and came to rest inverted. Skid marks from the airplane were apparent crossing the roadway and down the embankment. No mechanical malfunctions or failures were reported by the pilot or Federal Aviation Administration Inspector who examined the wreckage.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate compensation for wind and his failure to maintain directional control. A factor was the gusting winds.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
  2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
  4. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - UNCONTROLLED
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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

## Factual Information

On March 12, 1999, at 1100 central standard time, an Air Tractor 301, N36484, collided with the ground during takeoff from Highway 181 in Finley, Tennessee. The airplane was owned by H & H Flying Company and operated by the commercial pilot under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 137 and visual flight rules. No flight plan was filed for the local aerial application flight. The pilot was not injured and the airplane received substantial damage. The flight departed Finley, Tennessee, initially at 0700.

According to the pilot, during takeoff roll on Highway 181, the airplane encountered a gust of wind, which blew the airplane around off its heading. The airplane proceeded down an embankment and came to rest inverted. Highway 181 at the accident location was an asphalt surface located on the top of a grass levee. The pilot exited the airplane with no injuries. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions or failures.

According to a Federal Aviation Administration Inspector who visited the accident site, the left wingtip was broken off, the left wing was bowed upward, the propellers were bent, the bottom half of the hopper door was removed, and the vertical stabilizer was crushed with the upper tip broken off. Examination of the takeoff surface showed skid marks crossing the roadway.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	43, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<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>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	February 24, 1999
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	5610 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3324 hours (Total, this make and model), 5510 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Air Tractor	<b>Registration:</b>	N36484
<b>Model/Series:</b>	301 301	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	301-0232
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	March 10, 1999 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	20 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	6333 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R1340
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	H&H FLYING CO.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	GEORGE S HOLLINGSWORTH	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<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>	MKL ,413 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	10:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<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>	16 knots / 19 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	60°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	8°C / -7°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<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>	07:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

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

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<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 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.879524,-89.400993(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Wilson, Butch

**Additional Participating Persons:** DEBORA CATRON;  
SCOTT M GRABON;

**Original Publish Date:** May 8, 2001

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=45892>

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