

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198600914**

Airtractor AT301

30 October 1986

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198600914
Location: Freeling SA
Date: 30 October 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil

Occurrence Type: Incident

Time: 1200

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Aircraft Details: Airtractor AT301
Registration: VH-FAQ
Serial Number: 301-0209
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Agricultural Spraying)
Damage Level: Minor
Departure Point: Freeling
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Freeling

Approved for Release: October 16th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was spraying a pea crop in calm conditions. A high voltage powerline was strung above a fence bounding one side of the paddock being treated. The pilot knew of its presence and could see it clearly during the spray runs. At the end of the sixth run prior to making the procedure turn, the pilot felt a slight jolt and was surprised when he saw the powerline collapse. The aircraft's deflector wire contacted the powerline and guided it over the fuselage until it was severed by the deflector wire rear attachment bracket on top of the fin. The pilot advised that he misjudged the clearance between the fence and the powerline and later inspection revealed that the line was hung lower than is usually the case.