

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199800217**

**Air Tractor Inc  
AT-301**

**21 January 1998**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

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**Occurrence Number:** 199800217                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Nangwee  
**State:** QLD    **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Wednesday 21 January 1998  
**Time:** 0930 hours                                      **Time Zone** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Air Tractor Inc  
**Aircraft Model:** AT-301  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-FAA                      **Serial Number:** 301-0197  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial    Aerial Agriculture - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Hornicks Strip Qld  
**Departure Time:** 0920 EST  
**Destination:** Rother's Farm Qld

**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	350.0	2800

**Approved for Release:** Wednesday, January 28, 1998

The pilot reported that on approaching the paddock to be sprayed he did a circuit to observe wires and obstructions. He observed two sets of wires, one set running along a main road and another set running along one side of the paddock to a bore. The pilot decided to carry out some clean up runs along the bore wire first, to make the spray runs on the paddock safer. On the fourth run the pilot was intending to go over the road wires, but the landing gear snagged them, and brought the aircraft down to the ground some distance away. The pilot stated that there was a crop of tall sunflowers growing in the corner of the paddock, which made it too dangerous to go under the wires.