

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198601426**

Air Tractor AT 301

14 July 1986

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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: 198601426
Location: 31 km East Edenhope VIC
Date: 14 July 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1310

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Air Tractor AT 301
Registration: VH-ODA
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Spraying)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: 32 km ENE Edenhope VIC
Departure Time: 1310
Destination: 32 km ENE Edenhope VIC

Approved for Release: August 4th 1986

Circumstances:

Towards the end of a spraying operation, the pilot manoeuvred the aircraft for a clean-up run. This required flying between two trees, before diverting around another tree and pulling up over a power line. The first part of the manoeuvre was accomplished, but as the pilot applied rudder to yaw around the single tree, his left foot slipped off the rudder pedal. He then tried to lift the right wing over the tree, but the outer section of the wing struck a large branch. The pilot was able to maintain limited control of the aircraft, which touched down heavily in a nearby paddock. The pilot had experienced some discomfort of his left leg, possibly due to his wearing of shoes with lower heels than those on the boots he normally wore. To alleviate the discomfort, he had placed his foot on the side of the left rudder pedal, from which it had slipped when pressure was applied to yaw the aircraft.