

Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198602323

Air Tractor AT 301

05 April 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: 198602323 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Merah North (17 Km West Wee Waa) NSW

Date: 05 April 1986 **Time:** 0700 aprx

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	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-FRP

Serial Number:

Aerial Work (Agricultural

Operation Type: Spraying)

Damage Level: Substantial

Strip 13 km West Wee Waa

Departure Point: Surp NSW

Departure Time: 0700 aprx

Destination: 13 km West Wee Waa NSW

Approved for Release: May 30th 1986

Circumstances:

The aircraft had been engaged in spraying cotton fields in generally turbulent flying conditions. Power lines crossed one end of the area at an angle of about 20 degrees to the direction of the swath runs. At their lowest point, these wires were about 10 metres above the ground. The pilot reported that as he approached the power lines, intending to fly underneath at the lowest point, the aircraft ballooned upwards in turbulence. Despite corrective action the cockpit mounted wire deflector struck the lines. The deflector was broken and much of the fin and rudder was torn from the aircraft, which subsequently impacted the ground about 800 metres from the power line.