

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division

Washington, D.C. 20594

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Global Positioning System Device

Specialist's Factual Report

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1. EVENT

Location: Minter City, Mississippi
Date: March 19, 2017
Aircraft/ID: Air Tractor, Inc. AT-602
Registration: N2049D
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ERA17FA131

2. EVENT SUMMARY

On March 19, 2017, about 1600 central daylight time, an Air Tractor AT-602, N2049D, registered to and operated by Sturdivant Brothers Flying Service, Inc., under the provisions of 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 137 as an aerial application flight, collided with trees and terrain near Minter City, Mississippi. The commercial pilot was fatally injured, and the airplane was destroyed by impact and a post-crash fire. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and no flight plan was filed for the local flight that originated about 30 minutes earlier from the company airstrip.

3. DETAILS OF DEVICE INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following device:

Device: AgJunction Satloc G4
Device Serial Number: Unknown

Figures 1 and 2 show the condition of the device as it arrived in the laboratory. The device exhibited substantial damage due to impact forces and fire. Figures 3 and 4 show the condition of the device's internal memory cards. The device was examined using laboratory hardware and software.

3.1. Device Description

The AgJunction Satloc G4 is a guidance system for aerial agricultural applicators. Navigation data is determined using Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites and optional base stations for increased accuracy. The system can store navigation data

including latitude: longitude, date, time, GPS altitude, and groundspeed in a removable non-volatile¹ memory module.

3.2. Data Description

The Satloc G4 device contains two internal memory cards that contain recorded data. The memory cards were destroyed by the post-crash fire in this accident. No data could be extracted from the device.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.



Figure 1. Photo of Satloc G4 (Front)



Figure 2. Photo of Satloc G4 (Internal)



Figure 3. Photo of first internal memory card

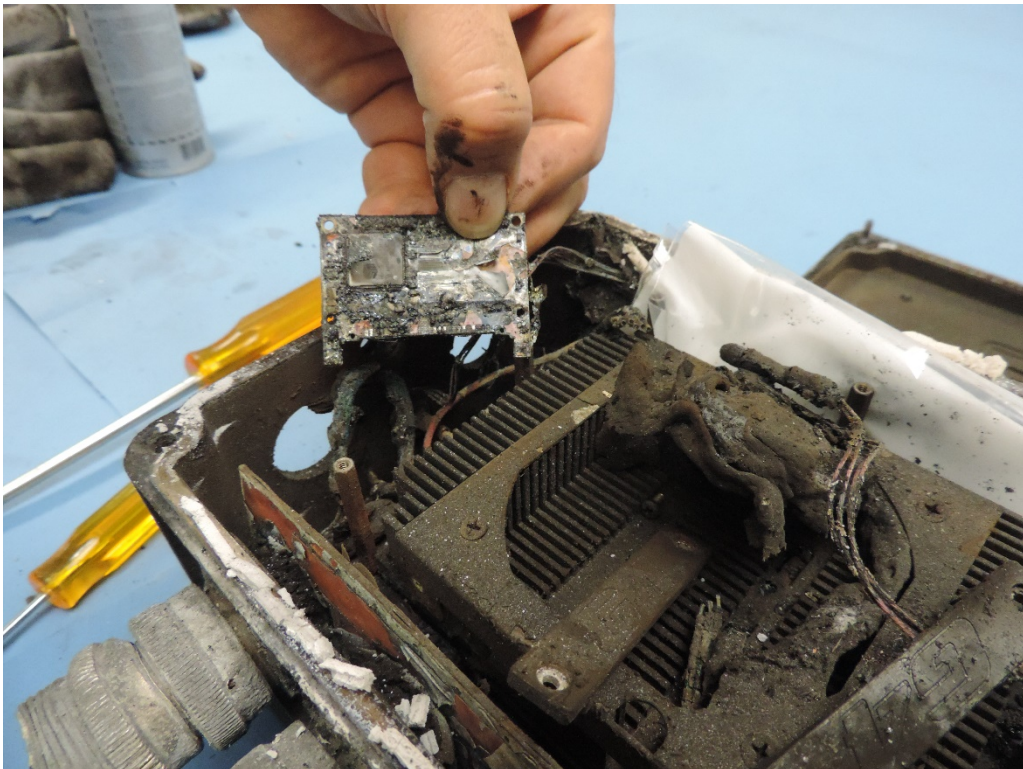


Figure 4. Photo of second internal memory card