

Starr Blum
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 9, 2023

Subject: WPR23LA212

Contact: Sam Muse - Pilot

The pilot reported this was the eighth aerial application flight of the day spraying rice fields. He had flown under the accident wire between 150-200 times this year. He stated the accident was caused by fatigue and monotony. He had made all takeoffs flying low under a power line about 3/4 mile from the departure end of the runway. The monotony of the flights combined with fatigue and a bi-plane wing configuration, he lost sight of the power line and struck it.

The airplane impacted the ground and cartwheeled sustaining substantial damage to the wings, fuselage, vertical and horizontal stabilizer. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operations.