



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LYNCHBURG, VA	Accident Number:	ATL84FA282
Date & Time:	09/09/1984, 1115 EDT	Registration:	N29RH
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-325	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF THE PLT REPORTED TO THE TOWER THAT THE LEFT ENG HAD FAILED. THE PROP WAS FEATHERED AND A LEFT TURN TO DOWNWIND INITIATED. IN THE TURN THE RIGHT ENG FAILED AND THE ACFT FLEW INTO TREES IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA ABOUT 1 MILE FROM THE ARPT. NO MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS WERE DISCOVERED. NO FUEL WAS FOUND IN EITHER ENGINE. THE FUEL SELECTORS FOR BOTH ENGS WERE ON THE OUTBOARD POSITIONS. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE THE MAIN FUEL TANKS WERE FILLED. NO FUEL WAS ADDED TO THE OUTBOARD TANKS. IMPACT RUPTURED THE RIGHT OUTBOARD TANK. APRX 1 CUP OF FUEL WAS DRAINED FROM THE LEFT TANK.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) CHECKLIST - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
3. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	33, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/01/1984
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	955 hours (Total, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N29RH
Model/Series:	PA-31-325 PA-31-325	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-243
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/18/1984, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	99 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6637 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-A2B
Registered Owner:	URSA AIR LTD.	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	GEORGETOWN AIRCRAFT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LYH, 938 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1125 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4000 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 5500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21 °C / 15 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LYNCHBURG, VA (LYH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	SUSSEX, NJ (N63)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1114 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	LYNCHBURG (LYH)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	924 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CHARLES T FOUTS	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).