



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	RIVIERA, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX84FA170
Date & Time:	02/08/1984, 1010 PST	Registration:	N36CA
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31T	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

ACFT LOST PWR ON THE LEFT ENG DURING CLIMB TO CRUISE APRX 8 MINUTES AFTER TAKEOFF. ARPT MGR HEARD UNICOM TRANSMISSION FROM N36CA, 'WE LOST AN ENG, WE'RE COMING BACK.' A WARNING HORN (POSSIBLY GEAR WARNING OR STALL HORN) WAS HEARD IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE TRANSMISSION. WHEN N36CA FAILED TO RETURN THE ARPT MGR CALLED THE SHERIFF & BEGAN SEARCH IN HIS OWN ACFT. N36CA WAS LOCATED APRX 1 HOUR AFTER IT'S DEPARTURE. THE FORCED LANDING WAS IN A FLAT, WINGS LEVEL ATTITUDE WITH 22DEGS OF FLAPS EXTENDED. INITIAL IMPACT OCCURRED IN AREA OF 8 FT HIGH BRUSH. DISTANCE FROM INITIAL IMPACT TO FINAL REST WAS 595 FT ON HEADING OF 140 DEGS. ALTHOUGH RESTRAINED BY LAP BELT AND HARNESS, PLT HIT HEAD ON CO-PLT'S CONTOL YOKE DURING THE ACCIDENT. THE LEFT ENG TURBINE BLADE HAD FAILED IN FATIGUE. THE PLT'S SON SAID HIS FATHER SHUT DOWN THE RIGHTENG IN-FLT AND AS A RESULT THE ACFT HAD NO PWR ON EITHER ENG.

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) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) TURBINE ASSEMBLY,TURBINE BLADE - FATIGUE
2. (C) WRONG ENGINE SHUTDOWN - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) INADEQUATE TRAINING(EMERGENCY PROCEDURE(S)) - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) TURBINE ASSEMBLY,TURBINE BLADE - FAILURE,TOTAL
5. (C) PROPELLER FEATHERING - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/08/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N36CA
Model/Series:	PA-31T PA-31T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/04/1983, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	69 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	1081 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-28
Registered Owner:	NEVADA NATIONAL LEASING CORP	Rated Power:	620 hp
Operator:	PIONEER HOTEL & GAMBLING HALL	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EED, 990 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0955 PST	Direction from Accident Site:	142°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	45 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C / -3° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BULLHEAD CITY, AZ (P06)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	SANTA ANA, CA (SNA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1000 PST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	BULLHEAD CITY	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing; Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	AL	DICKINSON	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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).