



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	NORCO, LA	Accident Number:	FTW86FA031
Date & Time:	01/04/1986, 1814 CST	Registration:	N9253Y
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31P-350	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE PLT INITIATED AN ILS APCH IN BELOW MINIMUM WEATHER CONDITIONS SHORTLY AFTER NIGHT FALL. HE WAS GIVEN A LOW ALT ALERT, BUT CONTINUED THE APCH. HE ANNOUNCED A MISSED APCH, AND INDICATED PROBLEMS CLIMBING TO ALT. HE THEN DECLARED AN UNSPECIFIED EMERGENCY, AND REQUESTED VECTORS TO A LARGER ARPT, IN SPITE OF WORSENING WEATHER CONDITIONS. HE REACHED AN ALT OF 2100 FT, BUT COMMENCED ANOTHER ILS APCH DESPITE PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES. RADAR DATA INDICATES EXCESSIVE MANEUVERING TO INTERCEPT THE INBOUND COURSE, WITH WIDE VARIATIONS IN GROUND SPEED AND ALT. FOLLOWING A STEEP CLIMB AT A LOW GROUND SPEED, THE ACFT DISAPPEARED BELOW RADAR COVERAGE. WITNESSES INDICATED IRREGULAR ENGINE SOUNDS AS THE ACFT MADE A TIGHT LEVEL TURN AT LOW ALT PRIOR TO IMPACTING TREES IN A NEAR LEVEL ATTITUDE. ON-SCENE EVIDENCE SHOWS POWER WAS BEING PRODUCED FROM BOTH ENGINES UPON IMPACT. POST-IMPACT FIRE CONSUMED THE WRECKAGE.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER

Phase of Operation: MISSED APPROACH (IFR)

Findings

1. (F) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE, CLIMB CAPABILITY - LOSS, PARTIAL
 2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
 3. NOT PERFORMED - OTHER MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - IAF TO FAF/OUTER MARKER (IFR)

Findings

4. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - BELOW APPROACH/LANDING MINIMUMS
 5. IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 6. FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
 7. (C) MANEUVER - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 8. (C) AIRSPEED - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 9. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

10. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Expired	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/31/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1085 hours (Total, all aircraft), 140 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N9253Y
Model/Series:	PA-31P-350 PA-31P-350	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	319-8414030
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/06/1985, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	60 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-V2AD
Registered Owner:	WILLIAM P. GUNDY	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	WILLIAM P. GUNDY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MSY, 4 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1755 CST	Direction from Accident Site:	108°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Partial Obscuration / 100 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	35 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / 13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GREER, SC (GSP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1512 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	MOISANT (MSY)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	ILS
Runway Length/Width:	9228 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	J DAUGHERTY	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	HARRY ANDERSON; BATON ROUGE, LA WAYNE K GILES CHARLES E WARD		
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/ .		

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