



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WEST SENECA, NY	Accident Number:	NYC88LA121
Date & Time:	04/08/1988, 0230 EDT	Registration:	N59845
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-325	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE FLIGHT DEPARTED BUFFALO UNDER IFR CONDITIONS TO JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK. SEVERAL APPROACHES WERE MADE TO LAND BUT DUE TO THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE PILOT ELECTED TO RETURN TO BUFFALO STILL UNDER IFR. DURING INITIAL CONTACT WITH CONTROL TOWER, THE PILOT ADVISED THEM THAT HE WAS LOW ON FUEL AND REQUESTED DIRECT FLIGHT TO BUFFALO. ABOUT 5 MILES SSW OF BUFFALO BOTH ENGINES QUIT AND THE PILOT ADVISED THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO MAKE IT. AT THIS TIME THE FLIGHT WAS ISSUED EMERGENCY VECTOR TO BUFFALO, BUT THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED ADJACENT TO ROUTE 400 IN WEST SENECA, NEW YORK.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: **LOSS OF POWER DUE TO FUEL STARVATION. CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS ADVERSED WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	47, 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):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/18/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3050 hours (Total, all aircraft), 410 hours (Total, this make and model), 3030 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 45 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N59845
Model/Series:	PA-31-325 PA-31-325	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-7612054
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/15/1988, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	65 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2040 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-F28D
Registered Owner:	LANDS EDGE, INC.	Rated Power:	325 hp
Operator:	LANDS EDGE, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3000 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BUFFALO, NY	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	JAMESTOWN, NY	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0050 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CHAUNCEY D TWINE, JR.	Report Date:	06/11/1990
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/ .		

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](#).