



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	PORT MANSFIELD, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW82FRG21
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/17/1982, 1500 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	N9181Y
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-31	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91: General Aviation -

---

## Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM THE APPROACH END OF RUNWAY 12. A WITNESS REPORTED THAT "THE PLANE JUST FELL" WHILE THE PILOT WAS MAKING A SHARP TURN. AN ESTIMATED 1500 LBS OF MARIJUANA WAS ON BOARD.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

---

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

### Findings

1. STOLEN AIRCRAFT/UNAUTHORIZED USE - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

-----

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	33, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/09/1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3200 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N9181Y
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-31 PA-31	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	7103102
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	6
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	6500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	TIO-540A2C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	J. J. DUPONT	<b>Rated Power:</b>	310 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	J. J. DUPONT	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	5 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	140°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	/ 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	PORT MANSFIELD, TX	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	PORT MANSFIELD (T05)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	12	IFR Approach:	Contact
Runway Length/Width:	3222 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):		Report Date:	01/17/1983
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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](#).