



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BATON ROUGE, LA	Accident Number:	FTW83FA027
Date & Time:	10/31/1982, 0505 CST	Registration:	N41045
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-350	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AND BURNED SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFF IN DARKNESS ON AN IFR FLIGHT PLAN. THE WEATHER WAS REPORTED AS INDEFINITE CEILING, ZERO OBSCURATION, VISIBILITY 1/4 MI WITH FOG, WIND 120 DEG AT 5 KTS. A NUMBER OF WITNESSES HEARD THE AIRCRAFT, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER TAKEOFF. THE CONSENSUS OF THEIR STATEMENTS INDICATED THAT ONE ENGINE LOST POWER WHILE THE OTHER CONTINUED RUNNING AT A HIGH POWER SETTING. AN INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT AN INTENSE POSTCRASH FIRE HAD CONSUMED MOST OF THE AIRCRAFT. THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE PLANE HAD CRASHED IN A STEEP NOSE DOWN, RIGHT WING LOW ATTITUDE AND DID NOT MOVE AFTER IMPACT. THE RIGHT PROPELLER WAS FOUND IN A FEATHERED POSITION. THE LEFT PROPELLER BLADES WERE CURLED AND TWISTED. BOTH ENGINES WERE DISASSEMBLE, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF A MECHANICAL FAILURE WAS FOUND. THE GEAR AND FLAPS WERE RETRACTED AND THE COWL FLAPS WERE CLOSED.

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
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - BELOW APPROACH/LANDING MINIMUMS
 4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
 5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
 6. (C) AIRSPEED(VMC) - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 7. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	41, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/31/1981
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1784 hours (Total, all aircraft), 336 hours (Total, this make and model), 1605 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 125 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 53 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N41045
Model/Series:	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	31-825020
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	10
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	290 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-J2BD
Registered Owner:	MOORE DATA SYSTEMS, INC.	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	MOORE DATA SYSTEMS, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BTR, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0453	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	67° C / 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BATON ROUGE, LA (BTR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	CHARLESTON, WY (C)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0500	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	RYAN AIRPORT (BTR)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	4	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6900 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Report Date:	10/31/1983
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 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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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](#).