



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	BAY CITY, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW83LA093
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/16/1983, 0300 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	TGSAB
<b>Aircraft:</b>	DOUGLAS DC-3	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation -		

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## Analysis

THE GUATEMALAN REGISTERED ACFT COLLIDED WITH THE GROUND WHILE AIRDROPPING BALES OF MARIJUANA ON A BEACH. ACCORDING TO A WITNESS, WHILE THE ACFT WAS MAKING LOW PASSES OVER THE BEACH THE PROPELLER STRUCK THE BEACH TEARING IT OFF THE ACFT. THE ACFT THEN CONTINUED ABOUT 600 FT & LANDED GEAR UP ON THE BEACH. THE CREW UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO SET THE ACFT ON FIRE. SOB & INJURIES ARE PRESUMED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. (F) LOW PASS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
3. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) PROPELLER SYSTEM/ACCESSORIES - SEPARATION
5. (F) WHEELS UP LANDING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>		<b>Age:</b>	, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Unknown Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	DOUGLAS	<b>Registration:</b>	TGSAB
<b>Model/Series:</b>	DC-3 DC-3	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Transport	<b>Serial Number:</b>	
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	30400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	unknown
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UNK/NR
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PCX, 25 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0600 CST	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 7000 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 7000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11° C / 9° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WARREN V WANDEL	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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@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](#).