



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PANAMA CITY, FL	Accident Number:	MIA90FA145
Date & Time:	06/26/1990, 0515 CDT	Registration:	N18PA
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

WITNESSES DESCRIBED THE TAKEOFF AS A LONG GROUND ROLL, SLOW CLIMB, AND ENGINES NOT SOUNDING NORMAL. THE AIRPLANE THEN SETTLED INTO TREES. TEARDOWN OF THE LEFT ENGINE REVEALED WATER PRESENT IN THE FUEL INJECTOR LINES OF #1, #3 AND #5 CYLS. #3 NOZZLE PLUGGED. INTAKE VALVES DARK & SOOTY. PISTONS 1, 3 AND 5 HAD CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF DARK CARBON DEPOSITS. TEARDOWN OF RIGHT ENGINE REVEALED EXTENSIVE CARBON BUILDUPS THROUGHOUT. AN ENGINE TEST RUN WAS PERFORMED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE DAY BEFORE ACCIDENT. PERSONNEL FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY THE OPERATOR PROVIDED WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF ALLEGATIONS PERTAINING TO THE GENERAL CONDITION OF COMPANY AIRPLANES, FALSIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE RECORDS, AND IMPROPER MAINTANANCE PROCEDURES BEING PERFORMED ON COMPANY AIRPLANES.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A LOSS OF POWER ON BOTH ENGINES DURING TAKEOFF AS A RESULT OF INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE. IN ADDITION, THE PILOT FAILED TO ABORT THE TAKEOFF.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. 1 ENGINE
 2. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE - WATER
 3. (C) MAINTENANCE - INADEQUATE - COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

4. 1 ENGINE
 5. (C) FUEL SYSTEM
 6. (C) MAINTENANCE - INADEQUATE - COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

7. (C) ABORTED TAKEOFF - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	64, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/22/1990
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	7524 hours (Total, all aircraft), 600 hours (Total, this make and model), 7208 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 346 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 118 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N18PA
Model/Series:	PA-31 PA-31	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-7712068
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/17/1990, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5993 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540F2BD
Registered Owner:	PANAMA AVIATION INC	Rated Power:	325 hp
Operator:	PANAMA AVIATION, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135); On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PFN, 21 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	314 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0447 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	110°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 22° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	TAMPA, FL (TPA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0513 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CARROL A SMITH	Report Date:	12/14/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	LEW MASON; VERO BEACH, FL CHARLES R LITTLE; CLINO, CA EDWARD H BLOUNT; N. BIRMINGHAM, AL		
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](#).