



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	EVANSTON, IL	Accident Number:	CHI86FA111
Date & Time:	12/12/1985, 0930 CST	Registration:	N4380A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-46-310P	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Business

Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT WAS ON CLIMBOUT ON AN IFR FLIGHT PLAN IN VMC CONDITIONS WHEN THE ENGINE FAILED. A RESTART WAS ATTEMPTED AND THE ENGINE RAN FOR A MINUTE OR LESS. SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THE AIRCRAFT WAS OVER LAKE MICHIGAN AND HAD INSUFFICIENT ALTITUDE TO REACH THE SHORELINE. A SUCCESSFUL WATER LANDING WAS MADE AND THE OCCUPANTS WERE PICKED UP BY THE COAST GUARD UNHARMED. SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION OF THE ENGINE REVEALED THAT THE CRANKSHAFT HAD FRACTURED.

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(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CRANKSHAFT - FATIGUE
2. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CRANKSHAFT - FAILURE,TOTAL

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: DITCHING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/24/1985
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1890 hours (Total, all aircraft), 16 hours (Total, this make and model), 1801 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 67 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N4380A
Model/Series:	PA-46-310P PA-46-310P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	468508016
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/13/1985, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	55 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	478 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-BE
Registered Owner:	THEODORE J. ADAMS	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	PLANE MASTERS	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	CFXA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NBU, 657 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0900 CST	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-9° C / -13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	WEST CHICAGO, IL (DPA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	TROY, MI (7D2)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0905 CST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RONALD J SEBASTIAN	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	H GORDON; MOBILE, AL DON O WHEELER, JR; VERO BEACH, FL		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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/ .		

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](#).