

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

August 26, 2015

Personal Electronic Device

Specialist's Factual Report
By Bill Tuccio, Ph.D.

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Orlando, Florida
Date: March 22, 2015
Aircraft: Robinson R44 II
Registration: N30242
Operator: HQ Aviation
NTSB Number: ERA15FA164

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED):

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 5S
Serial Number:	Unknown

3.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

3.2. Device Condition

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the unit had sustained severe heat and structural damage, as shown in figures 1 through 3.



Figure 1. Front of iPhone as received.

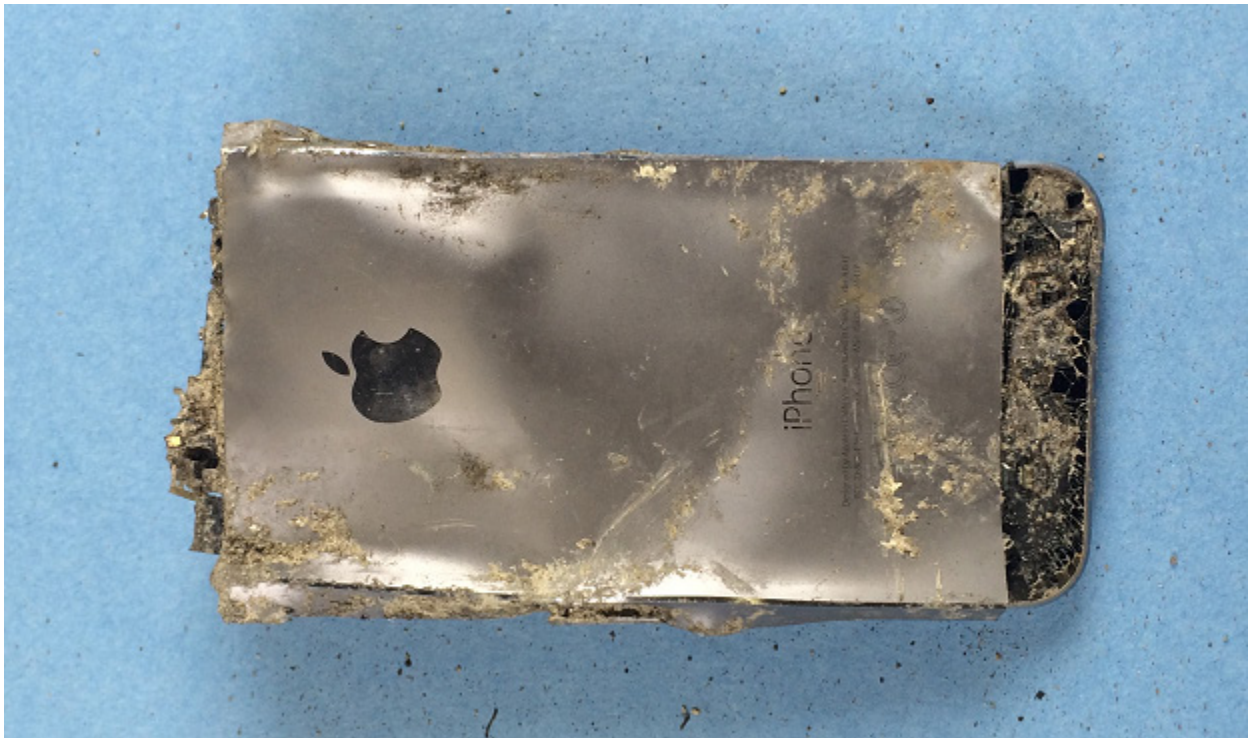


Figure 2. Back of iPhone as received.

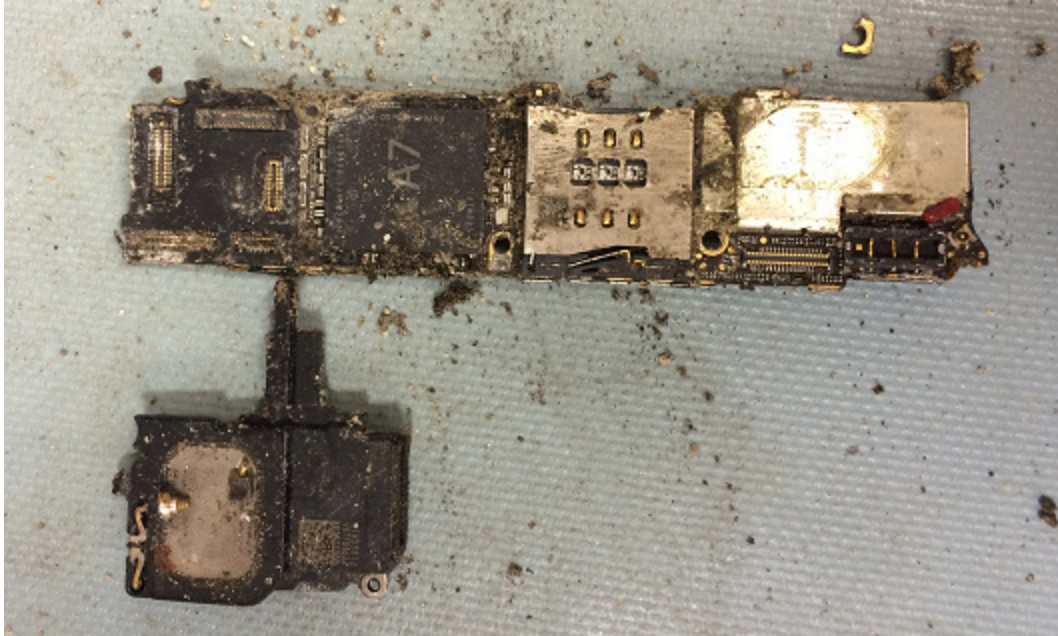


Figure 3. Internal circuit board.

3.3. Data Description

This device is capable of storing data in the non-volatile memory.¹ The extent of the damage precluded normal recovery procedures and additional attempts were unsuccessful in yielding usable data. Therefore, no data pertinent to the event were recovered.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.