



Aviation Investigation Factual Report

Location:	VALLEY CENTER, Kansas	Accident Number:	CHI98LA071
Date & Time:	December 17, 1997, 16:20 Local	Registration:	N32737
Aircraft:	Piper J-3	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Factual Information

On December 17, 1997, at 1620 central standard time, a Piper J-3, N32737, sustained substantial damage when it impacted the terrain during takeoff climb. The airplane rolled to the right and the right wing impacted the ground. The airplane flipped inverted and came to rest on its back. The private pilot received minor injuries. The 14 CFR Part 91 flight had departed a private grass airstrip and was on a local flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan had been filed.

The pilot reported that shortly after takeoff he felt and heard what he thought was the limbs of nearby trees brushing the right wingtip. The pilot reported, "I now know the shudder of a near stall caused the door window at my right to rattle. My reflex action was a left turn, the sure way to start a spin from a pre-stall attitude."

The pilot reported that the airplane rotated to the right and cart-wheeled off the right wingtip when it hit the trees. The airplane came to rest in an inverted position with the tail resting vertically in the trees.

The pilot reported that the accident could have been prevented by, "decreasing the climb angle sooner after liftoff."

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	77, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 7, 1996
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1804 hours (Total, all aircraft), 249 hours (Total, this make and model), 1042 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N32737
Model/Series:	J-3 J-3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5569
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 8, 1997 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1175 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	22 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2660 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	C-75F-12
Registered Owner:	CHARLES RISHEL	Rated Power:	75 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	12 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:20 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BRAND FARM	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1340 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Soft
Runway Used:	17	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1400 ft / 25 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	37.829299,-97.370094(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Silliman, Jim
Additional Participating Persons:	RICHARD PERIGO; WICHITA , KS
Report Date:	January 29, 1998
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=10812

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