



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	BEAVERTOWN, Pennsylvania	<b>Accident Number:</b>	BF092LA100
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 12, 1992, 10:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4754Z
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-22-108	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT WAS NEARING HIS DESTINATION WHEN HE NOTICED THE SKY WAS DARKENING NORTH OF THE AIRPORT. THE PILOT DECIDED TO TURN AROUND AND HEAD BACK TO WHERE HE DEPARTED. HE SAID THAT AFTERWARDS HE ENCOUNTERED A DOWNDRAFT AND HE WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE AIRCRAFT DESCENDED AND STRUCK THE EAST SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN GROUND CLEARANCE. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS A DOWNDRAFT AND INSUFFICIENT ALTITUDE.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. (F) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	29, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	May 21, 1992
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	307 hours (Total, all aircraft), 149 hours (Total, this make and model), 246 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N4754Z
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-22-108 PA-22-108	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	22-8310
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 1, 1991 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1650 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	45 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2353 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235-C1B
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	KELLY WILSON	<b>Rated Power:</b>	108 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	KELLY WILSON	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	IPT ,529 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	40 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	10:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	40°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 2800 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	6 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 8500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	110°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	22°C / 19°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	N/A - None - Fog		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MIFFLINTOWN , PA (PA23)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	SELINSGROVE , PA (SEG )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	40.749546,-77.160476(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Jones, Dennis
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	TOM TAYLOR; HARRISBURG , PA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	June 30, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11819">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11819</a>

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