



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	BERRIEN SPRINGS, Michigan	Accident Number:	CHI84LA219
Date & Time:	June 6, 1984, 18:14 Local	Registration:	N8205Y
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-30	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF NEAR THE END OF THE RWY. THE SEQUENCE BEGAN WHEN THE PLT NOTICIED THAT ACFT ACCELERATION WAS 'A BIT SLOW' ON THE RWY. THEN A NOTICABLE DROP IN RPM ON THE RIGHT ENGINE OCCURRED AT ABOUT HALFWAY DOWN THE 3100 FT RWY. THE PLT DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE TAKEOFF ATTEMPT RATHER THEN ABORT. AFTER THE ACFT BECAME AIRBORNE A TURN TO THE RIGHT BEGAN IN SPIE OF THE PLTS ATTEMPTS TO FLY STRAIGHT AHEAD. THE ACFT DID NOT ATTAIN VMCA (80 KTS), IMPACTED THE GROUND AT A SHALLOW ANGLE AND SLID 400 FT TO A STOP. THE STALL WARNING HORN WAS ON FOR THE LAST 900 FT OF THE FLT. NO REASON FOR THE LOSS OF RPM WAS FOUND EXCEPT POSSIBLY THE SPARK PLUGS WHICH SHOWED SIGNS OF SOOTING.

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
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY - UNDETERMINED

2. (F) ABORTED TAKEOFF - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) IGNITION SYSTEM, SPARK PLUG - DIRTY (FOGGY)
 4. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - DISREGARDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. (C) AIRSPEED (VMC) - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 10, 1983
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2550 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1050 hours (Total, this make and model), 2304 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 42 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8205Y
Model/Series:	PA-30 PA-30	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	30-1330
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 15, 1983 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	112 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3590 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-320-C1A
Registered Owner:	BERRIEN CV SURGERY	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	THORVALD W. CHRISTIANSEN	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:	18:40 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	20 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	7°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI (120)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	BATON ROUGE , LA (BTR)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	18:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	ANDREWS UNIVERSITY C20	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	665 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3100 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.940517,-86.340339(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Benzon, Robert

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=12636>

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