



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LAPORTE, Indiana	Accident Number:	CHI87LA028
Date & Time:	November 11, 1986, 10:16 Local	Registration:	N2335Q
Aircraft:	BEECH 23	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PLT STATED THAT AT THE INITIAL FULL THROTTLE POSITION THE ACFT DEVELOPED 2450 RPM. ACCORDING TO THE PLT, AT APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET OF ALTITUDE HE NOTICED A LOSS OF RPM'S TO 2050 AND HE IMMEDIATELY RECHECKED THE THROTTLE AND MIXTURE CONTROLS, THE MAGNETO SWITCH, THE FUEL PUMP, AND THE MASTER SWITCH FOR PROPER POSITIONS. THE PLT STATED THAT AT THIS POINT THE RPM'S HAD FALLEN TO 1500 AND HE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN A CORNFIELD TO HIS LEFT. ACCORDING TO THE PLT, DURING THE DESCENT HE CONTINUED TO MANIPULATE THE THROTTLE AND MIXTURE CONTROLS, BUT HE DID NOT SWITCH FUEL TANKS. THE PLT STATED THAT ONCE THE ACFT'S RIGHT WING TOUCHED THE TOP OF THE CORN, HE REDUCED THROTTLE AND FLARED THE ACFT. INSPECTION OF THE WRECKAGE REVEALED VERY LOW FUEL IN THE LEFT TANK, WITH THE FUEL SELECTOR ON THE LEFT TANK POSITION. THE SPARK PLUGS WERE ALSO WORN AND LEAD FOULED.

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 - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP

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:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	189 hours (Total, all aircraft), 189 hours (Total, this make and model), 145 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N2335Q
Model/Series:	23 23	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	M-400
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	150 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2000 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-D2B
Registered Owner:	HAROLD I. GRISE	Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	HAROLD GRISE	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:	SBN ,790 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	65°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 1200 ft AGL	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 4600 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	0°C / -3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LA PORTE , IN (3LP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	TELL CITY , IN (TEL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	LA PORTE MUNICIPAL 3LP	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	41.59933,-86.709945(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Dinwiddie, Carl

Additional Participating Persons: G CHANEY; DES PLAINES , IL
A CARMIEEN; DES PLAINES , IL

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=13694>

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