



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MARION, Indiana	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI88LA131
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 8, 1988, 15:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3737P
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-22-150	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT BECAME DISORIENTED DURING FLIGHT AND MADE AN UNSCHEDULED STOP IN A CORN FIELD TO ASK FOR DIRECTIONS TO HIS DESTINATION AIRPORT. DURING TAXI FOR TAKEOFF FROM THE FIELD, THE PILOT FAILED TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE VISUAL LOOKOUT, AND STRUCK A MANHOLE COVER SHEARING THE NOSE GEAR. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE WAS FATIGUED AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT FROM LACK OF SLEEP.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: TAXI - TO TAKEOFF

#### Findings

1. (F) BECAME LOST/DISORIENTED
2. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIDDEN OBSTRUCTION(S)
4. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) FATIGUE(LACK OF SLEEP) - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	79, 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-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	October 1, 1986
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1818 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 1638 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N3737P
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-22-150 PA-22-150	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	22 3457
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 19, 1987 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1950 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	11 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4010 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-A2B
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	PHELPS, ERVIN W.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	151 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	PHELPS, ERVIN W.	<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>	FWA ,815 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	37 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:50 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	40°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 5500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	16 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	60°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	36°C / 7°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	GAS CITY , IN (NONE)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	00:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

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

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	40.600574,-85.629142(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Reeves, Jodi
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	A WESTBROOK; INDIANAPOLIS , IN
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	September 29, 1989
<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=14090">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=14090</a>

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