



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ROUND LAKE, Illinois	Accident Number:	CHI92LA160
Date & Time:	June 1, 1992, 08:00 Local	Registration:	N812PC
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32R-300	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES AFTER TAKEOFF, WHILE IN CRUISE FLIGHT, SMOKE APPEARED FROM THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE INSTRUMENT PANEL. THE PILOT INITIATED A FORCED LANDING IN AN OPEN FARM FIELD. PRIOR TO TOUCHDOWN FLAMES WERE PRESENT IN THE COCKPIT. AFTER THE LANDING, THE PILOT EXITED THE AIRPLANE, WITH MINOR INJURIES. THE AIRPLANE CONTINUED TO BURN. A SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION FAILED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE WHERE THE FIRE ORIGINATED. THE PILOT DESCRIBED THE ORIGIN TO BE AN ELECTRICAL FIRE; HOWEVER, DURING THE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISENGAGE THE MASTER SWITCH.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, AND THE FIRE IN THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FOR REASONS UNDETERMINED.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM - FIRE

Occurrence #2: FIRE

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

2. MISC EQPT/FURNISHINGS - FIRE

3. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

5. UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 30, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	7765 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 185 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N812PC
Model/Series:	PA-32R-300 PA-32R-300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	76-80250
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 18, 1992 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	9 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3906 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-K1G5D
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	BITTON, DANIEL A.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	D B AVIATION	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ORD ,667 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	155°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	25000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	WONDER LAKE , IL (10C)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	WAUKEGAN , IL (UGN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		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 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	Both in-flight and on-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	42.340873,-88.110069(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wilson, Stephen
Additional Participating Persons:	T. HUTCHINS; WEST CHICAGO , IL
Original Publish Date:	September 29, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=15455

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