



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado	Accident Number:	DEN84LA091
Date & Time:	February 12, 1984, 09:07 Local	Registration:	N8984P
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-24-260	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT WAS DAMAGED DURING A FORCED LANDING ON SNOW COVERED TERRAIN AFTER THE ENGINE FAILED DURING CLIMB. AN INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE ACFT HAD 50 WEIGHT OIL IN IT AND THE TEMPERATURE WAS ABOUT 15 DEGREES F. THE ENGINE HAD BEEN, PRE-HEATED FROM THE TOP BECAUSE THE HOSE COULD NOT BE INSERTED THROUGH THE LOWER COWL NEAR THE OIL SUMP. AN ENG TEARDOWN REVEALED THE #3 & #4 CONNECTING ROD CAP BOLTS HAD FAILED AFTER THE ROD BEARINGS HAD 'FROZEN' FROM LACK OF LUBRICATION.

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(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) FLUID,OIL GRADE - IMPROPER
2. (F) MAINTENANCE,SERVICE OF AIRCRAFT/EQUIPMENT - IMPROPER - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TEMPERATURE EXTREMES
4. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. FLUID,OIL - MOVEMENT RESTRICTED

- 6. (C) FLUID,OIL - STARVATION
- 7. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CONNECTING ROD - FALSE INDICATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings
8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SLUSH COVERED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	37, 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:	January 26, 1983
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	354 hours (Total, all aircraft), 304 hours (Total, this make and model), 317 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8984P
Model/Series:	PA-24-260 PA-24-260	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	24-4443
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 7, 1983 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	106 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2383 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-540
Registered Owner:	INLAND DISPOSAL, INC.	Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
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:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	30 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	REDLANDS , CA (L12)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:05 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CRESTED BUTTE 3V6	Runway Surface Type:	Snow
Airport Elevation:	8940 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4500 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor, 2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.870136,-106.980117(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Winningham, Fred
Additional Participating Persons:	WILLIAM ALLEN; BROOMFIELD , CO BRUCE BICKHAUS;
Original Publish Date:	
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=16336

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