



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	CORTEZ, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN86LA001
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 1, 1985, 15:52 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9614S
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CHAMPION                      7GCAA	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

AFTER 3.9 HRS FLT TIME ON A X-COUNTRY FLT FROM CHEYENNE, WY, TO CORTEZ, CO, THE PLT EXPERIENCED AN ENG FAILURE DUE TO FUEL EXAHUSTION. HE EXECUTED A FORCED LANDING IN A MOUNTAIN MEADOW THAT WAS NOT ADEQUATE IN LENGTH FOR THE LANDING. THE ACFT IMPACTED TREES ON LANDING ROLL AT APRX 10 MPH.

## 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) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

#### Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
3. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	58, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	February 21, 1985
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2417 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2291 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CHAMPION	<b>Registration:</b>	N9614S
<b>Model/Series:</b>	7GCAA 7GCAA	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	46
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 5, 1985 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1650 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	58 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	815 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	GENE E. PATTON	<b>Rated Power:</b>	150 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	CEZ ,5914 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	28 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	208°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 7000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	60 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	270°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C / -3°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CHEYENNE , WY (CYS)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	CORTEZ , CO (CEZ)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:20 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Rough
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.349266,-108.570693(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Mangum, Prentiss

**Additional Participating Persons:** RICHARD RUNDELL; SALT LAKE CITY , UT

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=16867>

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