



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | LA SALLE, Colorado | Accident Number: | DEN89LA134 |
| Date & Time: | June 6, 1989, 09:45 Local | Registration: | N48749 |
| Aircraft: | RYAN ST-3KR | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 1 Serious |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

THE PRIVATE PLT WAS FLYING HIS ANTIQUE AIRPLANE ON A LOCAL FLIGHT TO CHECK THE COMPASS. THIS PLANE HAD BEEN UNDER RESTORATION FOR AN EXTENDED TIME PRIOR TO THIS FLIGHT.DURING FLIGHT, THE ENGINE LOST POWER AND THE PLT MADE A FORCED LANDING IN AN ALFALFA FIELD. AFTER ROLLING 200 FT IN 18 INCH HIGH ALFALFA, THE PLANE NOSED OVER. A POST ACCIDENT INSPECTION REVEALED EVIDENCE THAT THE FUEL TANK VENT WAS CLOGGED BY AN INSECT NEST (DIRT), WHICH RESTRICTED THE FLOW OF FUEL. AFTER THE VENT WAS CLEANED, THE ENGINE RAN NORMALLY.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: FOREIGN MATERIAL (INSECT NEST) BLOCKING THE FUEL SYSTEM VENT, WHICH RESULTED IN A RESTRICTION OF FUEL FLOW AND FUEL STARVATION. A RELATED FACTOR WAS THE ALFALFA CROP IN THE EMERGENCY LANDING AREA.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,VENT - BLOCKED(TOTAL)
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

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

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP

Factual Information

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 60, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land; Single-engine sea | Seat Occupied: | Rear |
| 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--w/ waivers/lim | Last FAA Medical Exam: | March 23, 1989 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 759 hours (Total, all aircraft), 148 hours (Total, this make and model), 713 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | RYAN | Registration: | N48749 |
| Model/Series: | ST-3KR ST-3KR | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 1402 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | May 8, 1989 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1860 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 2 Hrs | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 3514 Hrs | Engine Manufacturer: | KINNER |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | R-56 |
| Registered Owner: | HAROLD F. SCHMIDT | Rated Power: | 160 Horsepower |
| Operator: | | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| 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: | Scattered / 3000 ft AGL | Visibility | 15 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: | 16°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | GREELEY , CO (GXY) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | (GXY) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 09:15 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Airport: | | Runway Surface Type: | |
| Airport Elevation: | 0 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | |
| Runway Used: | 0 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 0 ft / 0 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Forced landing |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Serious | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Serious | Latitude, Longitude: | 40.340686,-104.700271(est) |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Collins, Robert |
| Additional Participating Persons: | H. O ABBOTT; AURORA , CO |
| Original Publish Date: | June 28, 1991 |
| Last Revision Date: | |
| Investigation Class: | Class |
| Note: | |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17718 |

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