



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: OPHEIM, Montana Accident Number: DEN90LA014

Date & Time: October 27, 1989, 12:30 Local Registration: N33211

Aircraft: CESSNA 206F Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED HE AND THE PAX WERE EN ROUTE TO OPEIM, MT, WHEN HE EXPERIENCED AN ENGINE FAILURE. HE EXECUTED AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN AN OPEN FIELD AND THE AIRPLANE NOSED OVER. POSTACCIDENT EXAMINATION OF THE ENGINE REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF A MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION OR FAILURE THAT WOULD HAVE PREVENTED NORMAL ENGINE OPERATION. SEVERAL 'SPENT' RIFLE CARTRIDGES WERE FOUND IN THE AIRPLANE. EXAMINATION OF THE AIRPLANE REVEALED THE FLAPS WERE IN THE UP POSITION AT THE TIME OF IMPACT. THE IMPACT MARKS REVEALED THE AIRPLANE TOUCHED DOWN, STRUCK A RAVINE, BECAME AIRBORNE AND IMPACTED THE UPHILL SIDE OF THE RAVINE BEFORE NOSING OVER.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN TERRAIN CLEARANCE WHILE EXECUTING A LOW PASS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) LOW PASS - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

- 3. (C) CLEARANCE NOT MAINTAINED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 4. DIVERTED ATTENTION PILOT IN COMMAND
- 5. TERRAIN CONDITION RAVINE

Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER Phase of Operation: OTHER

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Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	43,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medicalno waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 16, 1989
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1100 hours (Total, this make and model), 4000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 200 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N33211
Model/Series:	206F 206F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	U2060271
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 30, 1989 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	40 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3807 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-A
Registered Owner:	PRUNTY, THOMAS J.	Rated Power:	285 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
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	50 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /		Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:			Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscura	tion; No Precipita	tion	
Departure Point:	GLASCOW	, MT (GGW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	OPHEIM	, MT (500)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:00 Local		Type of Airspace:	Class G

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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 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	48.870342,-106.559982(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Feith, Gregory		
Additional Participating Persons:	PAUL KILMER; HELENA , MT		
Original Publish Date:	June 25, 1992		
Last Revision Date:			
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>		
Note:			
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17862		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 United States Code section 1154(b) is available here.

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