



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SIEBERT, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN92LA011
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	December 1, 1991, 20:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3745A
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-22-135	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

DURING CRUISE FLIGHT, THE RIGHT FUEL TANK RAN DRY AND THE ENGINE QUIT RUNNING. THE PILOT SWITCHED TO THE LEFT TANK, BUT THE ENGINE WOULD NOT RESTART, DUE TO THE VENT IN THE TANK FILLER CAP BEING PLUGGED. A FORCED LANDING WAS MADE TO ROUGH UP SLOPE TERRAIN IN LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS. DURING THE LANDING, THE LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE AIRCRAFT FLIPPED OVER.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: TOTAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER DUE TO A PLUGGED VENT IN THE TANK FILLER CAP, RESULTING IN FUEL STARVATION. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: DARKNESS AND THE LACK OF SUITABLE TERRAIN FOR A FORCED LANDING.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

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

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

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

Findings

3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	50, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 15, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	473 hours (Total, all aircraft), 473 hours (Total, this make and model), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N3745A
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-22-135 PA-22-135	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	22-1988
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1950 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-290-D2
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	BOLTON, CHRIS A./JEANNE C.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	135 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	BOLTON, CHRIS A./JEANNE C.	<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>	Night/dark
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	25 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	18 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	295°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	-18°C / -18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MEDFORD , OR (OK68)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	FT COLLINS , CO (FNL )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<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 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	39.290477,-102.859107(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Wiemeyer, Norman
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	HAROLD CHURCHMAN; DENVER , CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 27, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18182">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18182</a>

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