



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	TERRELL, Texas	Accident Number:	FTW92LA129
Date & Time:	May 11, 1992, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N7152D
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-22-150	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT HE SWITCHED TO THE LEFT TANK FOR HIS DESCENT TO PATTERN ALTITUDE. AT 800 FT THE ENGINE STOPPED. HE SWITCHED BACK TO THE RIGHT TANK BUT WAS UNABLE TO RESTART THE ENGINE. DURING THE FORCED LANDING THE LANDING GEAR CAUGHT A POWER LINE & THE AIRPLANE LANDED HARD COLLAPSING THE NOSE GEAR. THE LEFT TANK WAS FOUND EMPTY AND THE RIGHT TANK NEARLY FULL. TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL AT THE SITE NOTED AN 'OVERWHELMING SMELL OF ALCOHOL' COMING FROM THE PILOT. THE PILOT SUBMITTED TO A PORTABLE BREATH TESTER ON-SCENE, AND IT SHOWED THE PILOT TO HAVE A 0.149% BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S ALCOHOLIC IMPAIRMENT OF EFFICIENCY AND JUDGEMENT WHICH LED TO HIS INATTENTION TO THE AMOUNT OF FUEL REMAINING IN THE LEFT FUEL TANK, RESULTING IN FUEL STARVATION AND A TOTAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER. A FACTOR IN THE ACCIDENT WAS THE EXISTENCE OF THE POWER LINE.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - INATTENTIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) IMPAIRMENT(ALCOHOL) - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

4. (F) OBJECT - WIRE,TRANSMISSION
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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	65, 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-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 22, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	276 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N7152D
Model/Series:	PA-22-150 PA-22-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-5016
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 13, 1991 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	8 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1840 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A1A
Registered Owner:	TRISTATE TRIM LINE	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	TRISTATE TRIM LINE	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:	RBD ,660 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	32 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:46 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	250°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	25 knots / 35 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	KLUTTS FIELD , TX (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	32.729003,-96.290588(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Wall, Ray

Additional Participating Persons: KENNETH W CLARY; DALLAS , TX
JOE MONTEROSSA; DALLAS , TX

Original Publish Date: December 16, 1993

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18491>

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