



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Myrtle Beach, SC	Accident Number:	ERA23LA356
Date & Time:	July 31, 2023, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N3036M
Aircraft:	Piper PA-12	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Banner tow		

On July 31, 2023, at 1130 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-12 airplane, N3036M, was substantially damage when it was involved in an accident near Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The commercial pilot sustained minor injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 banner tow flight.

The pilot stated that he was towing a banner about 500 ft above ground level parallel to the beach, when the airplane’s engine stopped producing power. He restarted the engine, but it quit once again moments later. The pilot ditched the airplane in the ocean just offshore of the beach, which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage.

The airplane was recovered for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3036M
Model/Series:	PA-12	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:	84MJ		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCRE,29 ft msl	Observation Time:	11:31 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C /23°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2300 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Myrtle Beach, SC (CRE)	Destination:	Myrtle Beach, SC (CRE)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	33.6954,-78.8802 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Read, Leah
Additional Participating Persons:	Daryll McMillan; FAA/FSDO; Columbia, SC
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.