



# Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

<b>Location:</b>	Myrtle Beach, SC	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA23LA356
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 31, 2023, 11:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3036M
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-12	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	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

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

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

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