



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	DEL RIO, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW98FA191
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 23, 1998, 21:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N2179L
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beech F33A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The non-instrument rated private pilot completed a 1.3-hour dark night cross-country flight. Two witnesses reported observing the airplane attempting to execute an apparent "go-around" on runway 13, which was 5,100 feet in length. The two witnesses observed that the aircraft made a right turn near mid-field, followed by the nose of the airplane dropping towards the ground. Evidence at the site showed that the airplane impacted the ground in a nose low attitude and a post impact fire ensued. Flight control continuity was established. No anomalies were found with the airframe or engine during examination. Ground scars corresponding to the main landing gear tires for the airplane were found 1,266 feet short of the landing threshold for runway 13. Additionally, five light poles were found knocked down short of the landing threshold. The aforementioned physical evidence shows that the airplane had apparently landed short of runway 13, impacted the approach lighting system, executed a go-around, and subsequently impacted the ground.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's loss of control during a go-around after impacting approach light poles on initial approach. A contributing factor was the prevailing dark night light condition.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: UNDERSHOOT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

2. OBJECT - APPROACH LIGHT/NAVAID

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Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: GO-AROUND (VFR)

Findings

3. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROCK(S)/BOULDER(S)

## Factual Information

On April 23, 1998, approximately 2115 central daylight time, a Beech F33A airplane, N2179L, was destroyed when it impacted the ground while maneuvering in the landing pattern at the Del Rio International Airport, Del Rio, Texas. The private pilot, who was the sole occupant, received fatal injuries. Dark night visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the Title 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight. According to family members, the pilot intended to make a full stop landing at Del Rio after a 1.3 hour cross country flight that originated from Port Aransas, Texas.

Several witnesses reported to the NTSB investigator-in-charge that they observed the aircraft execute an apparent "go-around" after an approach to runway 13, which is 5,100 feet in length. Both witnesses observed the aircraft turning to the right at mid-field when the nose "dropped." Subsequently, the airplane impacted the ground in a nose low attitude and a post impact fire ensued.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 18, 1996
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	276 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Beech	<b>Registration:</b>	N2179L
<b>Model/Series:</b>	F33A F33A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	CE-667
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 2, 1998 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	10 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1763 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520-BA
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	DAVID C. OHLSON	<b>Rated Power:</b>	300 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	DRT ,999 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	21:35 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	7 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	130°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	79°C / 48°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	PORT ARANSAS , TX (2R8 )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	(DRT )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	20:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	DEL RIO INTERNATIONAL DRT	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	999 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	13	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5100 ft / 75 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Go around

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	29.370351,-100.890724(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Lemishko, Alexander

**Additional Participating Persons:** GARY WORTHY; SAN ANTONIO , TX  
PAUL YOOS;  
JOHN KENT;

**Original Publish Date:** November 14, 2001

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=20416>

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