



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MCALLEN, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW83LA268
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 6, 1983, 09:45 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4016Y
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 185	<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

THE ENG QUIT DURING CLIMBOUT. INSPECTION REVEALED THAT THE FUEL SYSTEM CONTAINED ABOUT 50% CLEAR LIQUID OTHER THAN GASOLINE. THE ACFT HAD SAT WITH ITS TANKS EMPTY FOR THE PAST 7-10 DAYS.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### Findings

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

#### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - WATER

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	53, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	September 30, 1982
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	15586 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2500 hours (Total, this make and model), 15501 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 46 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N4016Y
<b>Model/Series:</b>	185 185	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	185-0216
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	6
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 22, 1983 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	42 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1400 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-470-F
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	W. A. CROSS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	260 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>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	MFE ,107 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	09:48 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 1500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	13 knots / 20 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	150°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	29°C / 24°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class A

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	MILLER INTERNATIONAL MFE	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	107 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	18	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3000 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>	26.210182,-98.229393(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Johnson, J.

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=20925>

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