



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MIDLAND, Texas	Accident Number:	FTW85LA349
Date & Time:	September 14, 1985, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N91460
Aircraft:	RYAN NAVION	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PLT EXPERIENCED ENG FAILURE DURING CLIMBOUT FROM SKY RANCH ARPT AT MIDLAND, TX. HE THEN TURNED INTO THE WIND AND MADE A FORCED LANDING IN A PASTURE. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED A CONNECTING ROD HAD BROKEN, HOWEVER, THE CAUSE OF THE ROD FAILURE WAS UNDETERMINED. THE PLT HAD ALREADY RETRACTED THE LANDING GEAR AND MADE AN INTENTIONAL GEAR UP LANDING ONTO WET TERRAIN.

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) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings
1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CONNECTING ROD - FAILURE,TOTAL

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

2. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - WET

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. WHEELS UP LANDING - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56, 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:	May 1, 1984
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1460 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	RYAN	Registration:	N91460
Model/Series:	NAVION NAVION	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	NAV-4-273
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 1, 1985 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3233 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	820 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	E185
Registered Owner:	BILLIE G. SMITH	Rated Power:	185 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MAF ,2800 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:48 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	160°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 500 ft AGL	Visibility	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MIDLAND , TX (MAF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	17:32 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	SKY RANCH 7TX6	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	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:	32.019046,-102.099807(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Edwards, A

Additional Participating Persons: HENSERLING; LUBBOCK , TX

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=21849>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).