



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	LAKE ARTHUR, Louisiana	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW89LA072
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 24, 1989, 08:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4836Q
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA                      A185F	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

## Analysis

DURING A LANDING IN A CANAL, THE RIGHT WING OF THE FLOATPLANE CONTACTED TREE LIMBS. THE AIRPLANE THEN PIVOTED TO THE RIGHT & STRUCK THE CANAL BANK. THE PILOT STATED THAT HE HAD VISUALLY INSPECTED THE CANAL IN FLIGHT, BUT DID NOT SEE THE TREE LIMBS THAT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY HIT DURING THE LANDING.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO SEE AND AVOID TREE LIMBS THAT EXTENDED OVER THE EDGE OF THE CANAL. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: THE TREE LIMBS AND DIRT BANK NEAR THE EDGE OF THE SELECTED LANDING AREA.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

### Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
  2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DIRT BANK/RISING EMBANKMENT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	57, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	February 22, 1989
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	12757 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8000 hours (Total, this make and model), 130 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N4836Q
<b>Model/Series:</b>	A185F A185F	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	03561
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Float	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 22, 1989 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3350 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	30 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4421 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	HAMMOND FLYING SERVICE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	300 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand air taxi (135)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	HMDA

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 2500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	HOUMA , LA	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	Company VFR
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	06:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	50 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	30.069261,-92.800163(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Roth, Eugene
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	EARL MCCARTHY; BATON ROUGE , LA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 22, 1991
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=22850">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=22850</a>

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