



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	WHITHARRAL, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW91FA124
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 18, 1991, 03:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9326T
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

DURING A NIGHT CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT THE AIRPLANE EXHAUSTED FUEL ON BOARD. THE TWO PILOTS WERE WITHOUT VISUAL REFERENCES ON THE DARK NIGHT FORCED LANDING AND THE LANDING LIGHT WAS INOPERATIVE. THE INOPERATIVE LANDING LIGHT WAS DETECTED ON THE PREFLIGHT. THE AIRPLANE STRUCK THE GROUND IN A LEFT ROLL GREATER THAN 90 DEGREES.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: POWER LOSS DUE TO FUEL EXHAUSTION. FACTORS WERE THE PILOT'S OPERATION WITH THE KNOWN INOPERATIVE LANDING LIGHT AND THE DARK NIGHT.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. REFUELING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. (F) LANDING LIGHT(S) - INOPERATIVE
4. (F) OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	22, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 12, 1991
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	72 hours (Total, all aircraft), 72 hours (Total, this make and model), 37 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 72 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 59 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N9326T
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-38-112 PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	38-78A0034
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1670 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235-L2C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	STEVEN BERNSTEIN	<b>Rated Power:</b>	112 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	STEVEN BERNSTEIN	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	LEVELLAND AVIATION, INC.	<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>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	15 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	250°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	LUBBOCK (LBB)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	LEVELLAND (Q24)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	21:05 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Ellis, Matthew

**Additional Participating Persons:** A. ROBSON; LUBBOCK , TX

**Original Publish Date:** January 25, 1993

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=23270>

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