



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	VAN NUYS, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX85LA278
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 16, 1985, 14:21 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N30738
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER J3C-65	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

AN ENG FAILUE WAS EXPERIENCED WHILE ON FINAL APCH TO RWY 16R AND THE PLT ELECTED TO MAKE THE FORCED LANDING ON A SOD FARM NEAR THE ARPT. HE STATED HE HAD PLENTY OF ALT TO REACH THE SELECTED TOUCHDOWN POINT, BUT HE MADE A SLIGHT LEFT TURN TO AVOID LARGE TREES. HE DID NOT SEE A STREET LIGHT WHICH WAS NOW IN HIS APCH PATH. THE ACFT CONTACTED THE LIGHT AND COLLIDED WITH THE TERRAIN SHORT OF THE PLANNED TOUCHDOWN POINT. THE CAUSE OF THE REPORTED ENG FAILURE WAS NOT DETERMINED.

## 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  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings  
1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED  
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

2. (F) OBJECT - UTILITY POLE

3. (F) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	63, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<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>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	February 2, 1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	605 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Total, this make and model), 485 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N30738
<b>Model/Series:</b>	J3C-65 J3C-65	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	5077
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 20, 1985 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1220 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1850 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	C-85
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ROBERT W. STROMQUIST	<b>Rated Power:</b>	85 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>	VNY ,800 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	13:46 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Unknown / 20000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 20000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	4 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	110°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	29°C / 12°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	14:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class D

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	VAN NUYS VNY	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<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 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Edwards, A.

**Additional Participating Persons:** PENA; VAN NUYS , CA

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=24743>

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