



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | JACKSON, California | Accident Number: | LAX87LA271 |
| Date & Time: | July 18, 1987, 11:12 Local | Registration: | N7499M |
| Aircraft: | CESSNA 175 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 3 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

JUST AFTER TAKEOFF THE ENGINE BEGAN MISSING THEN QUIT AT AN ALTITUDE OF APRX 200 FT AGL. THE PLT ATTEMPTED TO RETURN AND LAND AT THE AIRPORT BUT WAS UNABLE TO REACH THE RUNWAY. INSPECTION OF THE ENGINE REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER 5 CYLINDER BARREL WAS CRACKED AT THE BASE OF THE CYLINDER HEAD.

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: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY, CYLINDER - CRACKED

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

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

2. (F) OBJECT - FENCE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 58, 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: | August 4, 1986 |
| Occupational Pilot: | UNK | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 106 hours (Total, all aircraft), 61 hours (Total, this make and model), 49 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | CESSNA | Registration: | N7499M |
| Model/Series: | 175 175 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 55799 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | 4 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | June 26, 1987 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 2350 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 61 Hrs | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 1529 Hrs | Engine Manufacturer: | CONTINENTAL |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | GO-300-A |
| Registered Owner: | RICHARD P. VINSON | Rated Power: | 175 Horsepower |
| Operator: | | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | SAC ,21 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 13 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 10:48 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 326° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Scattered / 8000 ft AGL | Visibility | 40 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 11 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 190° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 20°C / 10°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | JACKSON , CA (070) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | SAN ANDREAS , CA (003) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 11:30 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| Airport: | WESTOVER FIELD 070 | Runway Surface Type: | Dirt |
| Airport Elevation: | 1694 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 0 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 0 ft / 0 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | None |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 2 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 3 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 38.350605,-120.770561(est) |

Administrative Information

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|--|---|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Eckrote, Debra |
| Additional Participating Persons: | GORDON READ; SACRAMENTO , CA |
| Original Publish Date: | November 29, 1988 |
| Last Revision Date: | |
| Investigation Class: | Class |
| Note: | |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=25640 |

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](#).