



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | EL CAJON, California                 | <b>Accident Number:</b> | LAX89LA213      |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | June 18, 1989, 21:10 Local           | <b>Registration:</b>    | N8836D          |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | PIPER PA-22-160                      | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial     |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |                                      | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 Minor, 1 None |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |                 |

## Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED A LOSS OF ENGINE POWER SHORTLY AFTER TAKE OFF AT AN ALTITUDE ESTIMATED AS 200-300' AGL. THE AIRPLANE LANDED HARD IN A FIELD ADJACENT TO THE DEPARTURE RUNWAY, RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO THE AIRPLANE AND MINOR INJURIES TO ITS OCCUPANTS. A POST CRASH INSPECTION OF THE AIRPLANE REVEALED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF VISIBLE SEDIMENT IN THE FUEL SYSTEM. THE ENGINE RAN NORMALLY ONCE FRESH FUEL WAS ADDED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIRPLANE & INADEQUATE PREFLIGHT INSPECTION WHICH RESULTED IN THE UNDETECTION OF CONTAMINATED FUEL.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - CONTAMINATION
2. (C) MAINTENANCE,SERVICE OF AIRCRAFT/EQUIPMENT - INADEQUATE
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
4. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

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Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |   |  |              |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 57, Male     |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land  | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left         |
| <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 2 Valid Medical-w/<br>waivers/lim   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | June 4, 1987 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | No  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |              |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 2551 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2000 hours (Total, this make and model), 2430 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |              |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |  |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | PIPER  | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N8836D          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | PA-22-160 PA-22-160                                    | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |  | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal   | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 22-6006         |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tricycle   | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | November 10, 1988 Annual                               | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2000 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 31 Hrs   | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |  | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | LYCOMING        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | O-320-A2B       |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | LLOYD NISSLEY  | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 150 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>                  | Dusk     |
| <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>                           | 30 miles |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <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>               | 26°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>                     | SAN DIEGO , CA (NYF )            | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None     |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 21:05 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    | Class G  |

## Airport Information

|                             |                    |                                  |                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | GILLESPIE FLD. SEE | <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>     | Forced landing |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |                 |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 Minor         | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 1 Minor, 1 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                       |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A             | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                       |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 2 Minor, 1 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 32.790424,-116.959304(est) |

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Isbell, Shelby

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** August 22, 1990

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=26424>

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