



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MERCED, California	Accident Number:	LAX89LA230
Date & Time:	July 5, 1989, 21:07 Local	Registration:	N8212Y
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-30B-160	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

AFTER FILLING THE ACFT FUEL TANKS, THE PILOT TOOKOFF FOR HIS RETURN FLIGHT TO HIS HOME ARPT. THE RIGHT ENGINE LOST POWER FROM FUEL EXHAUSTION APPROXIMATELY 50 NAUTICAL MILES FROM HIS DESTINATION. THE PILOT TURNED TOWARDS AN APRT IN HIS VICINITY. AS THE ACFT APPROACHED THE RWY OF INTENDED LANDING THE LEFT ENGINE LOST POWER. THE ACFT IMPACTED THE TERRAIN ABOUT ONE HALF MILE SHORT OF THE RWY.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S INADEQUATE PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION, RESULTING IN FUEL EXHAUSTION.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. 2 ENGINES
 2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

4. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-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:	July 18, 1988
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	724 hours (Total, all aircraft), 154 hours (Total, this make and model), 670 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8212Y
Model/Series:	PA-30B-160 PA-30B-160	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	30-1339
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-B1A
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	LARRY A. LAMB	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MER ,188 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	21:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	125°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	20 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	NEWCASTLE , WY (ECS)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	HOLLISTER , CA (307)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	MERCED MUNI MCE	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	143 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5903 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing;Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	37.350975,-120.42031(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wall, James
Additional Participating Persons:	ROBYN MCDONOUGH; FRESNO , CA
Original Publish Date:	June 26, 1992
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=26439

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