



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LAKE WALES, Florida	Accident Number:	MIA88LA193
Date & Time:	June 15, 1988, 20:30 Local	Registration:	N4379A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32R-301T	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	6 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING TAKEOFF FROM THE GRASS STRIP, THE LEFT MAIN LANDING GEAR AND WINGTIP COLLIDED WITH RUNWAY LIGHTS & A FENCEPOST. THE ACFT WAS SLOW TO CLIMB. AFTER CLEARING TREES AT THE DEPARTURE END OF THE RWY, THE ACFT DESCENDED BELOW TREETOP LEVEL, THEN CONTINUED TO THE INTENDED DESTINATION. DURING THE LANDING ROLL THE LEFT MAIN LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE ACFT SLID TO A STOP. EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT REVEALED TREE TWIGS EMBEDDED IN SECTIONS OF THE TAIL.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. OBJECT - RUNWAY LIGHT
3. (C) PROPER CLIMB RATE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. OBJECT - FENCE
5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Occurrence #2: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

6. (F) LANDING GEAR,NORMAL RETRACTION/EXTENSION ASSEMBLY - PREVIOUS DAMAGE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	21, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 6, 1987
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	720 hours (Total, all aircraft), 120 hours (Total, this make and model), 680 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N4379A
Model/Series:	PA-32R-301T PA-32R-301	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	32R8529013
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 28, 1987 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	74 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	392 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-S1AD
Registered Owner:	SMITH, ROY V.	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	SMITH, ROY V	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:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAL ,142 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	22 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	279°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 5000 ft AGL	Visibility	20 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	60°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MELBOURNE , FL (MLB)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	21:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CHALET SUZANNE AIR STRIP X25	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	140 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Rough
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2450 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	5 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	6 None	Latitude, Longitude:	27.90092,-81.579811(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Monville, Timothy

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: June 9, 1989

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=32193>

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