



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	YORK, Nebraska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MKC88FA164
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 28, 1988, 17:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3J
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER J3	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT JUST AFTER TAKEOFF FROM THE GRASS AIRSTRIP, THE ENGINE SPUTTERED AND LOST POWER. HE ATTEMPTED TO LAND ON A NEARBY ROAD AND JUST AS THE RIGHT MAIN WHEEL TOUCHED DOWN, THE ENGINE BEGAN TO DEVELOP POWER. THE ACFT STRUCK A POWER POLE AND FLIPPED OVER IMPACTING THE TERRAIN IN AN INVERTED ATTITUDE. REASON FOR THE REPORTED LOSS OF POWER WAS NOT DETERMINED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: VISUAL OUTLOOK NOT MAINTAINED BY PILOT IN COMMAND.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

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

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	51, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Rear
<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>	None Expired	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	985 hours (Total, all aircraft), 275 hours (Total, this make and model), 970 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N3J
<b>Model/Series:</b>	J3 J3	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	22173
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 3, 1981 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1220 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	5 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	690 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	C-65
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	JAMES R. SHAW	<b>Rated Power:</b>	65 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>	GRI	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	18:50 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	20 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	8 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	210°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	24°C / 4°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>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<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 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	40.870876,-97.589485(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Vargas, Ramon

**Additional Participating Persons:** JOHN KENT; SEAGOVILLE 55R, TX  
LEWIS MASON; VIEW BEACH, FL  
DARWIN T HAMIT; AURORA, NE  
ALFRED E HUGHES; LINCOLN, NE

**Original Publish Date:** October 16, 1990

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=34501>

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