



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	OCILLA, Georgia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL97LA016
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 31, 1996, 11:50 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N731BQ
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 188B	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

The pilot experienced a complete loss of engine power as he maneuvered for a swath run. The pilot selected a cotton field adjacent to the field that he was spraying for the forced landing. The examination of the airframe and the engine assembly failed to disclose a mechanical problem. No fuel was recovered from the aircraft fuel system; however, the fuel bladder was damaged and a small quantity of fuel was reportedly spilled in the bottom of the wing assembly. According to the Cessna 188B flight manual, two gallons of fuel are unusable in the aircraft fuel system. During a functional check of the engine assembly, the engine started and operated normally.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to adequately preflight and plan the fuel required for the flight.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

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

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

## Factual Information

On October 31, 1996, at 1150 eastern standard time, a Cessna 188B, N731BQ, collided with the ground during a forced landing attempt near Ocilla, Georgia. The aerial application flight operated under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 137 with no flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The airplane sustained substantial damage, and the commercial rated pilot was not injured. The flight departed a private airstrip in Ocilla, at 1130.

According to the pilot, he experienced a complete loss of engine power as he maneuvered for a swath run. The pilot selected a cotton field adjacent to the field that he was spraying, and attempted a forced landing. The airplane sustained substantial damage during the emergency landing.

The examination of the airframe and the engine assembly failed to disclose a mechanical problem. No fuel was recovered from the aircraft fuel system; however, the fuel bladder was damaged and a small quantity of fuel was reportedly spilled in the bottom of the wing assembly. According to the Cessna 188B flight manual, two gallons of fuel are unusable in the aircraft fuel system. During a functional check of the engine assembly, the engine started and operated normally.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	49, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<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/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 27, 1996
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	12450 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N731BQ
<b>Model/Series:</b>	188B 188B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	18802771T
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	September 3, 1996 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	4200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	98 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3968 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520-D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	CHARLES C. TIMMONS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	280 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	RONALD L. HARPER	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<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>	AMG ,200 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	40 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	11:50 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	100°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	15 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	269°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	24°C / 13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(NONE)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	11:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	31.589611,-83.240821(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Powell, Phillip
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	RUBY L GUINN; COLLEGE PARK , GA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 31, 1998
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3805">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3805</a>

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