



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	BEANS COVE, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	NYC95LA007
Date & Time:	October 13, 1994, 11:40 Local	Registration:	N4878Z
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-22-108	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was doing a low pass over his property when the airplane struck a tree and descended nose down to the ground. According to the pilot, he applied full power to clear a power line during which the airplane struck a tree. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate obstacle clearance which resulted in an inflight collision with a tree.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. OBJECT - TREE(S)
2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. LOW PASS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Factual Information

On October 13, 1994 about 1140 eastern daylight time, N4878Z, a Piper PA-22-108 airplane, a personal flight, collided with a tree during a low pass near Beans Cove, Pennsylvania. Visual meteorological conditions existed. The certificated private pilot and passenger were seriously injured. The airplane was destroyed. The flight was operated under 14 CFR Part 91.

According to the pilot, "I came through making a low pass. I gave full power to climb out, climbed over a power line and trees at that point. I started to level out, and at that point, the right side hit a tree top that I had not seen. The plane nosed over and ended nose first on the ground."

The FAA interviewed the pilot, and a witness of the accident. According to the FAA, the pilot reported the low pass was over his property. He also stated the engine operated satisfactory. The witness indicated "the airplane landed, flew again, then hit a tree.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66,U
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-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 1, 1993
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	179 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N4878Z
Model/Series:	PA-22-108 PA-22-108	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-8459
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 1994 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-235
Registered Owner:	WILLIAM D. ROBOSSON	Rated Power:	108 Horsepower
Operator:	WILLIAM D. ROBOSSON	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:	A00 ,1451 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	210 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	40°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 20000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CUMBERLAND , MD (1W3)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	39.910209,-78.369331(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jones, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	RON HORAK; WEST MIFFLIN , PA
Original Publish Date:	February 14, 1995
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=38883

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