



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	WEST PALM BEACH, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL97LA125
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 26, 1997, 00:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N6216Q
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 152	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

The commercial-rated, student pilot stated that they landed the airplane at Orlando Executive Airport to refuel, but found the FBO was closed. He was advised by his instructor (CFI) that he had sufficient fuel for the flight to Palm Beach. They flew to Melbourne International Airport to 'do a touch and go.' While en-route to Palm Beach, the engine lost power, and the CFI took control of the airplane. The CFI declared an emergency due to low fuel, and was vectored to North County Airport, but was unable to reach it. The CFI landed the airplane on a dirt road, and the airplane collided with a mailbox and trees.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the flight instructor's (CFI's) inaccurate assessment of fuel available for the flight, and his improper in-flight planning/decision by continuing the training flight with minimal fuel, which resulted in fuel exhaustion and loss of engine power.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)

3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

4. OBJECT - OTHER

5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

On August 26, 1997, about 0030 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 152, N6216Q, force landed in a residential area and collided with terrain, 12 miles north-northwest of the Palm Beach International Airport, Florida. The airplane was operated by the commercial student pilot under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91, and visual flight rules. Visual meteorological conditions existed, and no flight plan was filed for the local instructional flight. The instructor and student were not injured, and the airplane was substantially damaged. The student pilot stated that the engine had quit and they had to make a forced landing. The flight originated from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The student pilot stated that they landed the airplane at Orlando Executive Airport to refuel, but found the FBO was closed. He was advised by his instructor that he had sufficient fuel for the flight to Palm Beach. They flew to Melbourne International Airport to "do a touch and go". While en-route to Palm Beach the engine quit and the instructor took control of the airplane and attempted restart procedures, but failed. The student pilot said, the instructor declared an emergency due to low fuel and was vectored to North County airport, but was unable to make it. The instructor landed the airplane on a dirt road and collided with a mailbox, and trees.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	25, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	October 28, 1996
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model), 300 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N6216Q
<b>Model/Series:</b>	152 152	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Utility	<b>Serial Number:</b>	15285198
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1675 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	14809 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	EXECUTIVE PILOT SERVICE INC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	115 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>	Night/dark
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 1500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/ None	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MELBOURNE (MLB )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	PALM BEACH (PBI )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	00:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	NORTH COUNTY F45	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 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>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	26.720767,-80.070106(est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wilson, Butch
Additional Participating Persons:	BRUCE HILL; FORT LAUDERDALE, FL ANDREW SCHRADER; ATLANTA, GA
Original Publish Date:	May 21, 1998
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<a href="#">Class</a>
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3893">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3893</a>

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