



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MARKS, Mississippi	Accident Number:	ATL85FLT08
Date & Time:	June 27, 1985, 14:15 Local	Registration:	N4905Q
Aircraft:	CESSNA A188B	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

THE PLT REPORTED THAT WHILE HE WAS ON AN AERIAL APPLICATION FLT, A RAIN STORM SUDDENLY BEGAN & FORCED HIM TO QUICKLY RETURN & LAND. HE REPORTED THAT THE RAIN WAS SO HEAVY THAT HE COULD ONLY SEE STRAIGHT DOWN. HE CONTACTED HIS GROUND CREW & ASKED THEM TO HELP (TALK) HIM DOWN ONTO A ROAD THAT WAS BEING USED AS A LANDING AREA. DURING THE LANDING, THE GROUND CREW SAW A PERSON ON A BICYCLE & TOLD THE PLT TO 'PICK UP.' THE PLT TRIED TO CLEAR OVER THE CYCLIST, BUT THE ACFT STILL HAD ABOUT 1/2 OF ITS LOAD & WAS TOO SLOW TO CLIMB. THE LEFT WING HIT THE CYCLIST ON THE HEAD & SERIOUSLY INJURED HIM.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING

- 5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
- 6. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

- 7. (C) PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 8. (F) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 9. (F) OBJECT - OTHER PERSON
- 10. VISUAL LOOKOUT - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	26, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
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 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 18, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4062 hours (Total, this make and model), 109 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4905Q
Model/Series:	A188B A188B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	18802640T
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 28, 1985 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	107 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	966 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
Registered Owner:	WILLIAM DIFFEE, JR.	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	WILLIAM DIFFEE	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:	DIFFEE FLYING SERVICE	Operator Designator Code:	06

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 450 ft AGL	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	450 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots / 5 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Fog		
Departure Point:		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:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Precautionary landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.249996,-90.269699(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Porter, Keith

Additional Participating Persons: KEITH F PORTER;

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6660>

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).