



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Stow, Massachusetts	Accident Number:	NYC07CA225
Date & Time:	September 13, 2007, 15:55 Local	Registration:	N30926
Aircraft:	Piper J3L-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of a Piper J3L-65, performed a preflight inspection and runup check of the engine without encountering any problems. He then ran the engine to warm it up, and afterward, taxied out to the runway. After another runup, he performed a high-speed taxi and all was normal. He then taxied back for takeoff, performed another runup, and took off. He then flew around the traffic pattern and landed. After taxiing back, he took off for a second time, the engine lost partial power, and the airplane struck trees. The pilot's most recent flight review was completed in December of 2003. The airplane had not flown since December of 2004, but had just received an annual inspection. Examination of the airplane revealed no evidence of any mechanical malfunction.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A partial loss of engine power for undetermined reasons.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

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

Findings
2. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

According to the pilot of the Piper J3L-65, he performed a preflight inspection and runup check of the engine without encountering any problems. He then ran the engine to warm it up, and afterward, taxied out to the runway. After another runup, he performed a high-speed taxi and all was normal. He then taxied back for takeoff, performed another runup, and took off. He then flew around the traffic pattern and landed. After taxiing back, he took off for a second time, the engine lost partial power, and the airplane struck trees while he was looking for an emergency landing area. According to a Federal Aviation Administration inspector, the pilot's most recent flight review was completed in December of 2003. The airplane had not flown since December of 2004, but had just received an annual inspection. Examination of the airplane revealed no evidence of any mechanical malfunction.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	65, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 1, 2004
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 1, 2003
Flight Time:	1114 hours (Total, all aircraft), 691 hours (Total, this make and model), 1010 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N30926
Model/Series:	J3L-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5205
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 1, 2007 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1839.7 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	A-65-8
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BED,133 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	290°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Stow, MA (6B6)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(6B6)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:57 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Minute Man Air Field 6B6	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	268 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	3	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2770 ft / 48 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.460277,-71.517776

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gunther, Todd
Additional Participating Persons:	Craig Jolliffe; FAA/FSDO; Boston, MA
Original Publish Date:	November 29, 2007
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=66666

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