



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	RALEIGH, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ATL86LA173
Date & Time:	June 15, 1986, 20:06 Local	Registration:	N73BJ
Aircraft:	PITTS S-15	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING NORMAL CRUISE VFR FLIGHT AT 1,500 FT AGL, THE PILOT REPORTED HEARING AN ERRATIC HISSING SOUND AND THE ACFT BEGAN LOSING FUEL PRESSURE. THE AIRCRAFT LOST POWER AND A FORCED LANDING WAS MADE INTO A FIELD. THE RIGHT MAIN LANDING GEAR DROPPED INTO A HOLE AND THE AIRCRAFT NOSED OVER. INSPECTION OF THE WRECKAGE CONFIRMED THAT AN IMPROPER FITTING HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN THE PRESSURIZED FUEL SYSTEM. A TEE FITTING HAD BEEN INSTALLED IN PLACE OF AN ELBOW FITTING AND THE END CAP HAD LOOSENED ALLOWING THE LOSS OF FUEL PRESSURE AND SUBSEQUENT LOSS OF POWER.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE FITTING - INCORRECT
2. (C) MAINTENANCE,MODIFICATION - IMPROPER - PRODUCTION/DESIGN PERSONNEL
3. INADEQUATE CERTIFICATION/APPROVAL,AIRCRAFT - FAA(ORGANIZATION)
4. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE FITTING - LOOSE

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

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 5, 1986
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	944 hours (Total, all aircraft), 104 hours (Total, this make and model), 756 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PITTS	Registration:	N73BJ
Model/Series:	S-15 S-15	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	BJ-2
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 23, 1985 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	100 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	BRUCE C. JORDAN	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	APEX , NC (NC81)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:55 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

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

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Coleman, Ben
Additional Participating Persons:	ROBERT W SIMMONS; MORRISVILLE , NC
Original Publish Date:	
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7133

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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](#).