



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MARLIN, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW82FPA15
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 16, 1982, 22:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N8760D
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-22-150	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT AFTER TAKEOFF, AT AN ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET AGL, THE ENGINE QUIT. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE A LEFT TURN THE AIRCRAFT LOST AIRSPEED AND ALTITUDE AND COLLIDED WITH TREES. EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE AT THE ACCIDENT SITE REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF FUEL. THE AIRCRAFT FUEL GAGES WERE PLACARDED "NO TAKEOFFS PERMITTED WHEN TANKS LESS THAN 1/3 FULL". THE PILOT STATED THAT HE DID NOT LOOK IN THE FUEL TANKS AND THE FUEL GAGES READ LESS THAN 1/3 FULL.

## 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: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

#### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - DISREGARDED - PILOT IN COMMAND

-----

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB  
-----

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

- 4. OBJECT - TREE(S)
- 5. OBJECT - FENCE

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	32, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	August 24, 1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	93 hours (Total, all aircraft), 93 hours (Total, this make and model), 65 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 51 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N8760D
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-22-150 PA-22-150	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	8592-27
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1840 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1400 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	RON NOBLITT	<b>Rated Power:</b>	160 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	RON NOBLITT	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<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>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<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>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MARLIN , TX	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	WACO , TX	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	21:50 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	MARLIN	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):**

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** July 16, 1983

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=71591>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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](#).