



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	NEAR PATTERSON, Louisiana	Accident Number:	FTW82DA066
Date & Time:	February 22, 1982, 09:15 Local	Registration:	N61766
Aircraft:	CESSNA A185F	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

AFTER LANDING THE PILOT BEGAN TO STEP TAXI ON AN UNFAMILIAR CANAL TO A DRILLING RIG LOCATION. WHILE NEGOTIATING A TURN IN THE CANAL, THE LEFT WING STRUCK A TREE LIMB. THE AIRCRAFT VEERED TO THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT WING DROPPED AND HIT THE WATER.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAXI - FROM LANDING

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
2. (C) CLEARANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	23, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 11, 1982
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1341 hours (Total, all aircraft), 188 hours (Total, this make and model), 1139 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 154 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N61766
Model/Series:	A185F A185F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	18504253
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	87 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	87 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
Registered Owner:	SUBSURFACE TOOLS	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	SUBSURFACE TOOLS	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
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:	09:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	PATTERSON , LA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	PATTERSON , LA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:40 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	PTN	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	29.690988,-91.300712(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: February 22, 1983

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=71912>

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](#).