



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CATHERINE, Alabama	Accident Number:	ATL87LA005
Date & Time:	October 11, 1986, 10:00 Local	Registration:	N720BC
Aircraft:	CESSNA 305C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

PLT HAD LANDED IN A SOYBEAN FIELD TO PARTICIPATE IN A DOVE HUNT. ABT 1000 HE DECIDED TO FLY TO ANOTHER FIELD NEAR A RESTAURANT FOR BREAKFAST. HE ATTEMPTED A SHORT FIELD T.O. AND AT ABOUT 100 FT AGL, HE STATED THAT THE ENG QUIT WITH NO WARNING. AS A RESULT OF MANEUVERING TO AVOID TREES ACROSS THE T.O. PATH, THE PLT STATED THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH SPEED LEFT TO COMPLETE ROUNDOUT. ABOUT 9 GAL OF FUEL WAS FOUND IN THE LT FUEL TANK AND ABOUT 1/2 PT IN THE RIGHT. THE PLT STATED THAT THE T.O. WAS MADE ON THE LT TANK. SUB TO THE ACCIDENT, THE ENG WAS PRIMED, STARTED AND RUN USING THE ACFT FUEL SYS FROM THE WING ATTACH POINTS TO THE ENG. THE FUEL SEL FUNCTIONED NORMALLY.

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. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES,RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - UNAPPROVED
2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. COMPLACENCY - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
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 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 19, 1986
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	14103 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 13790 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 180 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N720BC
Model/Series:	305C 305C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	24726
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 25, 1986 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3998 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-11
Registered Owner:	RUSSELL W. BROTHERS, JR.	Rated Power:	213 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:	Unknown	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 2000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:00 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:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	32.180484,-87.460876(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Stiner, Walter
Additional Participating Persons:	JOHN R HARDY; BIRMINGHAM , AL ALAN YURMAN; MOBILE , AL
Original Publish Date:	
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7340

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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](#).