



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MOORESVILLE, North Carolina	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL89DMG02
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 24, 1989, 18:39 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N98990
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 172P	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT DURING FLIGHT, THE AIRCRAFT DEVELOPED CARBURETOR ICE. HE DECIDED TO MAKE A SHORT FIELD LANDING AT A NEARBY AIRPORT. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHILE MANEUVERING TO LAND, THE AIRCRAFT STALLED & IMPACTED THE GROUND. IT CAME TO REST ABOUT 30 FT FROM THE IMPACT POINT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO MAINTAIN AIRSPEED ON FINAL APPROACH TO LAND, WHICH RESULTED IN AN INADVERTENT STALL. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: CARBURETOR ICING CONDITIONS, NIGHT CONDITIONS, AND THE PILOT'S DECISION TO LAND AT AN UNLIGHTED RUNWAY.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CARBURETOR ICING CONDITIONS
2. FLIGHT TO ALTERNATE DESTINATION - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY EDGE LIGHTS - UNAVAILABLE
5. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

- 6. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 7. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	35, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<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>	January 16, 1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	206 hours (Total, all aircraft), 49 hours (Total, this make and model), 173 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N98990
<b>Model/Series:</b>	172P 172P	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	17276392
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	December 1, 1988 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	1506 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1506 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-D2J
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	FULFORD, FLOYD L.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	160 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	FLOYD L. FULFORD	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<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>	HKY ,1189 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	40 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:54 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 12000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 25000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	140°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	16°C / -18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	STATESVILLE , NC (SVH )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	05:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	MILLER, NC 8A2	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	864 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	18	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2060 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Straight-in

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.569446,-80.810554(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Scarfeo, Dennis

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** June 28, 1991

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7848>

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