



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Selma, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA13CA234
Date & Time:	May 9, 2013, 19:24 Local	Registration:	N21609
Aircraft:	Piper J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

According to the instructor pilot, he was at the airplane controls while he demonstrated a touch and go landing with the student pilot. He stated that the airplane collided with unmarked power lines during an attempt to land on an undesignated grass strip. The airplane came to rest on the ground inverted. Examination of the airplane revealed substantial damage to the airplane fuselage and empennage. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The instructor pilot's inadequate visual lookout, which resulted in a collision with power lines and then the ground.

Findings

Environmental issues	Wire - Contributed to outcome
Personnel issues	Identification/recognition - Flight crew

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR pattern final	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight engineer; Flight instructor	Age:	64, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 13, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 29, 2011
Flight Time:	17400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 407 hours (Total, this make and model), 10000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	14, Female
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	17 hours (Total, all aircraft), 17 hours (Total, this make and model), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N21609
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2460
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 1, 2012 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	20 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2003 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	A&C65 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	JNX,167 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	20°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Unknown precipitation		
Departure Point:	Smithfield, NC (JNX)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Smithfield, NC (JNX)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	18:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	No Identifier None	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	210 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2000 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	35.567501,-78.283332(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Murray, Patrick
Additional Participating Persons:	Wayne Vohs; FAA/FSDO; Greensboro, NC
Original Publish Date:	July 23, 2013
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=86855

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