



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Santa Teresa, New Mexico	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN13LA571
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 29, 2013, 15:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3078F
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 182J	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of engine power (total)	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Skydiving		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that he was making a circling descent to the airport after dropping parachutists and that he used carburetor heat during the descent. As the pilot was on the base leg of the landing pattern, close to the turn onto the final leg, the engine lost power. The pilot landed the airplane short of the runway, and the firewall buckled and the nose landing gear bent forward. The operator later functionally tested the engine and it operated normally.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power for reasons that could not be determined because no anomalies were found during the postaccident engine examination.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	(general) - Not specified
<b>Not determined</b>	(general) - Unknown/Not determined

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Approach-VFR pattern downwind</b>	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
<b>Emergency descent</b>	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

On September 29, 2013, about 1530 mountain daylight time, a Cessna 182J, N3078F, landed short of the runway at Dona Ana County Airport (5T6), Santa Teresa, New Mexico, after the engine lost power. The pilot, the sole occupant on board, was not injured. The airplane was substantially damaged. The airplane was registered to and operated by a private individual under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a skydiving flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident, and no flight plan had been filed. The local flight originated from 5T6 about 1505.

The pilot told a Federal Aviation Administration inspector that he was returning to the airport after parachutists had exited the airplane. During the descent, he momentarily opened throttle several times to "clear" the engine. Carburetor heat was on throughout the descent. When he went to advance the throttle to level off in the traffic pattern, the engine failed to respond. The pilot immediately turned towards runway 28. The airplane landed short of the runway. Post-accident inspection revealed the firewall was buckled and the nose landing gear was bent forward.

According to the operator, the engine was functionally tested and it operated normally. It was his opinion that when the pilot advanced the throttle to level off, the engine "loaded up" and failed to respond.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	30
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	January 19, 2012
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	September 16, 2013
<b>Flight Time:</b>	310 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6 hours (Total, this make and model), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N3078F
<b>Model/Series:</b>	182J	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1968	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	18257178
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 30, 2013 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2800 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	20 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2333 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental Motors
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470-R
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Robert H. Kearns	<b>Rated Power:</b>	230 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Robert H. Kearns	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KELP,3958 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	28 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	90°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	3 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.11 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C / 1°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Santa Teresa, NM (5T6 )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Santa Teresa, NM (5T6 )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:05 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Dona Ana County 5T6	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	4112 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	28	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	8500 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<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 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	31.839729,-106.680145(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Scott, Arnold

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** February 3, 2014

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=88227>

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