



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Wetumpka, Alabama	Accident Number:	ERA15CA176
Date & Time:	April 3, 2015, 20:15 Local	Registration:	N9172Q
Aircraft:	Beech V35B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was landing his airplane at night and mistook the hangar lights for runway lights. The airplane struck trees on the final approach, then the ground before coming to rest, inverted. The pilot said that, in retrospect, he was on the incorrect radio frequency when he attempted to turn on the pilot-activated runway lights. A Federal Aviation Administration inspector examined the wreckage and reported that the airplane sustained substantial damage. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical problems with the airplane at the time of the accident. The runway lights operated normally after the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's use of an incorrect radio frequency when attempting to turn on the runway lights, resulting in an attempt to land the airplane while aligned with airport hangar lights.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot
Environmental issues	Dark - Contributed to outcome
Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on operation

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)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	77
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 11, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 6, 2015
Flight Time:	3326 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1909 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N9172Q
Model/Series:	V35B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1970	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	D-9250
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 1, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6137 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520 Series
Registered Owner:	POWER DANIEL N	Rated Power:	285 Horsepower
Operator:	POWER DANIEL N	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MGM,221 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	190°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots / 18 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Galveston, TX (GLS)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Wetumpka, AL (08A)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Wetumpka Muni 08A	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	197 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3011 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	32.527221,-86.331108(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Ralph
Additional Participating Persons:	John Park; FAA FSDO; Vestavia Hills, AL
Original Publish Date:	August 11, 2015
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=90988

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