



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FITZGERALD, GA	Accident Number:	ATL97FA021
Date & Time:	12/01/1996, 0820 EST	Registration:	N123SS
Aircraft:	Bellanca 17-31ATC	Injuries:	3 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot could not recall the accident flight and there were no impact witnesses. He stated it was misting rain during loading & engine run-up. He also noted a weather front moving in from the north, and clear to the southeast. Relatives helped load the airplane, watched it depart, then drove to Florida. After an unknown elapsed time, an ear witness heard fluctuating engine sounds followed by an impact. He found the airplane south of runway 19. The airplane had impacted in a steep left wing & nose down attitude. Subsequent investigation revealed the intake air box alternate air door broken loose. A fresh fracture was evident on the door hinge. The spark plugs were sooted. The fuel injection system tested within limits.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power due to the blockage of the intake manifold of the induction air system, by the broken alternate air door, and the loss of aircraft control for undetermined reasons.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) INDUCTION AIR CONTROL,ALTERNATE AIR/DOOR - FAILURE
2. (C) INDUCTION AIR CONTROL,INTAKE MANIFOLD - BLOCKED(TOTAL)

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

3. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
4. AIRCRAFT WEIGHT AND BALANCE - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	38
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	11700 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bellanca	Registration:	N123SS
Model/Series:	17-31ATC 17-31ATC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ALBERT J. TOWNSEND	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	17-31ATC
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABY, 197 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 800 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 210°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	2.5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(FZG)	Destination:	WEST PALM BEACH, FL (PBI)

Airport Information

Airport:	FITZGERALD AIRPORT (FZG)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	19	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Length/Width:	5002 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): PRESTON E HICKS

Adopted Date: 03/31/1998

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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