



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MORRISTOWN, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX97LA116
Date & Time:	03/02/1997, 1750 MST	Registration:	N39W
Aircraft:	Beech J35	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While in cruise flight the pilot felt a slight vibration and immediately made a power change without affect. After reducing the engine rpm from 2300 to 2100, the airplane vibrated hard for a split second and then smoothed out. At that point, the propeller had separated from the engine with part of the crankshaft. Metallurgical examination of the crankshaft revealed that the fatigue failure occurred inside the crankshaft bore 1.7 inches forward of the crankshaft oil seal. The point of origin was at two corrosion pits.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: failure of the crankshaft due to improper inspection/overhaul procedures.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	392 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N39W
Model/Series:	J35 J35	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	RAFAEL L. VALENZUELA	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470-C
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable / , 260°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BULLHEAD CITY, AZ (IFP)	Destination:	DEER VALLEY, AZ (DVT)

Airport Information

Airport:	PRIVATE (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GEORGE E PETERSON	Adopted Date:	01/07/1998
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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