



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

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| Location: | RUSSELLVILLE, AL | Accident Number: | ATL97LA066 |
| Date & Time: | 05/01/1997, 1100 CDT | Registration: | N5778Z |
| Aircraft: | Piper PA-22-180 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

On May 1, 1997, at 1100 central daylight time, a Piper PA-28-180, N5778Z, collided with a road sign during an emergency landing roll, and nosed over into a ditch five miles west of Russellville, Alabama. The personal flight operated under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 with a flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The airplane sustained substantial damage; the pilot was not injured. The flight departed Quincy, Louisiana, at 0700.

According to the pilot, approximately four hours into the flight, while on a long descent to Muscle Shoals, Alabama, he experienced a reduction in engine power. The power reduction continued over a period of eight minutes and resulted in a complete loss of engine power. Following the loss of power, the pilot's attempts to restore full engine power, which included the application of carburetor heat, failed. The pilot selected a nearby paved road for an emergency landing. During the landing roll out, the right wing collided with a road sign, and the airplane swerved into an adjacent ditch and nosed over.

During the examination of the airplane approximately twelve gallons of fuel were recovered from the fuel system. During the functional test of the engine, the engine operated normally through all power ranges. A review of current weather information revealed that weather conditions were favorable for the formation of carburetor icing.

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 43, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | Seatbelt |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim. | Last FAA Medical Exam: | 03/05/1996 |
| Occupational Pilot: | | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 140 hours (Total, all aircraft), 45 hours (Total, this make and model), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Piper | Registration: | N5778Z |
| Model/Series: | PA-22-180 PA-22-180 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Utility | Serial Number: | 22-9623 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | Unknown | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1650 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 2065 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | Lycoming |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | O-235-C1B |
| Registered Owner: | RICHARD S. ROBARGE | Rated Power: | 108 hp |
| Operator: | RICHARD S. ROBARGE | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | MSL, 550 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 20 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 1053 CDT | Direction from Accident Site: | 45° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear / 0 ft agl | Visibility | 10 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None / 0 ft agl | Visibility (RVR): | 0 ft |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 9 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 290° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 29 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 16° C / 6° C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | QUINCY, LA (5R8) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | VFR |
| Destination: | MUSCLE SHOALS, AL (MSL) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 0700 EST | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---------------------|--------|----------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 None | Latitude, Longitude: | |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | PHILLIP POWELL |
| Additional Participating Persons: | DAVID FAIR |
| 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/ . |