



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	PANAMA CITY, FL	Accident Number:	ATL98LA069
Date & Time:	05/01/1998, 1300 CDT	Registration:	N4121W
Aircraft:	Piper PA-32-300	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane experienced a catastrophic engine failure, and the pilot executed an emergency landing near Panama City, Florida. During the flare, the left wing impacted a utility pole causing substantial damage to the airplane. Examination of the engine revealed that the crankshaft had fractured at the connection rod thrust surface adjacent to the front fillet radius of No. 6 crankpin journal. Metallurgical examination concluded that the crankshaft fractured in fatigue at the connection rod thrust surface, adjacent to the front fillet radius of the No. 6 crankpin journal due to high stress. However, exact cause of the high stress remains undetermined.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The engine crankshaft fracturing, leading to total powerplant failure. Contributing to the severity of the accident was a utility pole.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CRANKSHAFT - SHEARED
2. (F) POWERPLANT - FAILURE,TOTAL
3. EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIDDEN OBSTRUCTION(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	631 hours (Total, all aircraft), 576 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4121W
Model/Series:	PA-32-300 PA-32-300	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DANA P. DICKSON	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-K1A5
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:	PFN, 21 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 240°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PERRY, GA (PXE)	Destination:	(PFN)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	BUTCH WILSON	Adopted Date:	05/19/1999
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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