



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN	Accident Number:	CHI93LA084
Date & Time:	02/02/1993, 1215 CST	Registration:	N3854M
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-12	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED WHEN HE LANDED ON THE SNOW-COVERED AIRSTRIP, IT APPEARED THE SNOW WAS 'HARD PACKED.' HE REPORTED AS THE AIRPLANE DECELERATED, IT BEGAN TO SINK INTO THE SNOW, THEN NOSED OVER. HE STATED: 'IN THE THIRTY EIGHT YEARS OF FLYING THIS IS MY FIRST ACCIDENT. SOMETIMES WE MAKE BAD DECISIONS AND THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE TIMES.' FAA PERSONNEL REPORTED 8 INCHES OF SNOW ON THE RUNWAY.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT SELECTED UNSUITABLE TERRAIN FOR LANDING. THE SNOW COVERED RUNWAY WAS A FACTOR.

Findings

Occurrence #1: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1730 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1200 hours (Total, this make and model), 1600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N3854M
Model/Series:	PA-12 PA-12	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DORN, EARL D.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A2B
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:	Overcast / 5000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 275°
Temperature:	1° C	Visibility	6 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MINNEAPOLIS, MN (MIC)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	BENSON (BBB)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	32	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow--dry
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JODI L REEVES	Adopted Date:	10/25/1993
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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