National Transportation Safety Board
Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WAMPUM, PA	**Accident Number:**	BFO93LA080
Date & Time:	05/01/1993, 1801 EDT	**Registration:**	NONE
Aircraft:	MCMILLIN FISHER 404	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:		**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

ABOUT 45 SECONDS AFTER TAKEOFF, THE AIRPLANE'S ENGINE LOST TOTAL POWER. THE PILOT MADE A FORCED LANDING, AND DURING THE APPROACH, THE AIRPLANE IMPACTED A TREE. POST ACCIDENT EXAMINATION OF THE AIRPLANE REVEALED THAT A PLASTIC FUEL LINE HAD BEEN SAFETY WIRED AND THE WIRE WAS OVER TORQUED, CAUSING THE FUEL LINE TO SPLIT. THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT DURING INITIAL CLIMB FROM TAKE OFF, AIR ENTERED THE FUEL LINE, STARVING THE ENGINE OF FUEL. THE PILOT WAS OPERATING THE AIRPLANE UNDER 14 CFR PART 103 AS AN ULTRALIGHT AND DID NOT HOLD ANY FAA CERTIFICATES. THE POST ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE AIRCRAFT WEIGHED OVER THE WEIGHT LIMITATION OF 254 POUNDS AS IMPOSED BY 14 CFR PART 103; THEREFORE, IT WAS DESIGNATED AN AIRPLANE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE OVERTORQUE OF A SAFETY WIRE ON A PLASTIC FUEL LINE, CAUSING THE LINE TO SPLIT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings
1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE FITTING - OVERTORQUE
2. (C) MAINTENANCE,INSTALLATION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. FUEL SYSTEM,LINE - CRACKED
4. FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings
5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	**Age:**	, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	**Seat Occupied:**	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	None Unknown	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	
Occupational Pilot:		**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MCMILLIN	**Registration:**	NONE
Model/Series:	FISHER 404 FISHER 404	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:		**Serial Number:**	
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/02/2000, Unknown	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		**Engine Manufacturer:**	ROTAX
ELT:		**Engine Model/Series:**	532
Registered Owner:	JAMES MCMILLIN	**Rated Power:**	60 hp
Operator:	JAMES MCMILLIN	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	YNG, 1 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1651 EDT	**Direction from Accident Site:**	1°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	**Visibility**	25 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	**Visibility (RVR):**	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:	40°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	22°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:		**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	1800 EDT	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

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
Total Injuries:	1 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	MARGARET B NAPOLITAN	**Report Date:**	10/13/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	DARRELL MILLER; WEST MIFFLIN, PA		
Publish Date:			
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.ntsb.gov/pubdms/.		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available here.