



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WINTER HAVEN, FL	Accident Number:	MIA92LA180
Date & Time:	03/01/1992, 1805 EST	Registration:	NONE
Aircraft:	D.W. OWENS STITTS SA3B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PLT PREFLIGHTED THE ACFT, TOOK OFF, FLEW AROUND THE ARPT TRAFFIC PATTERN, LANDED, THEN BOARDED A PAX. THE FLT TOOK OFF AGAIN & THE ENG QUIT WHEN THE FLT WAS APRX 200 FT AGL. THE PLT RESTARTED THE ENG BUT IT WAS NOT PRODUCING POWER. WHILE RETURNING THE ACFT STALLED BUT THE PLT RECOVERED. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LAND ON THE ARPT PROPERTY, HE PULLED UP TO CLEAR OBSTACLES WHICH WERE AHEAD BUT THE ACFT STALLED AGAIN & IMPACTED THE GROUND. THE DAY AFTER THE ACCIDENT, AN ACFT MECHANIC DRAINED A SMALL QUANTITY OF FUEL FROM THE TANK, WHICH WAS TESTED & FOUND TO BE CONTAMINATED.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
FUEL CONTAMINATION AND UNSUITABLE TERRAIN ENCOUNTERED WHILE THE PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE AIRPORT PROPERTY.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - CONTAMINATION

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

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. PULL-UP - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Expired	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/10/1988
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	10000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 40 hours (Total, this make and model), 8000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	D.W. OWENS	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	STITTS SA3B STITTS SA3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	DO-11738
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/19/1990, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	15 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	130 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-11
Registered Owner:	SEE NARRATIVE	Rated Power:	125 hp
Operator:	DEAL, CARL P.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAL, 142 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1753 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	254°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26° C / 6° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(GIF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1800 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WINTER HAVEN'S GILBERT (GIF)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Airport Elevation:	146 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	TIMOTHY W MONVILLE	Report Date:	08/31/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	BEVERLY MORTON; ORLANDO, FL SCOTT STRICKLAND; ORLANDO, FL		
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.nts.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](#).