



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	ROUND LAKE, IL	Accident Number:	CHI92LA160
Date & Time:	06/01/1992, 0800 CDT	Registration:	N812PC
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32R-300	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES AFTER TAKEOFF, WHILE IN CRUISE FLIGHT, SMOKE APPEARED FROM THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE INSTRUMENT PANEL. THE PILOT INITIATED A FORCED LANDING IN AN OPEN FARM FIELD. PRIOR TO TOUCHDOWN FLAMES WERE PRESENT IN THE COCKPIT. AFTER THE LANDING, THE PILOT EXITED THE AIRPLANE, WITH MINOR INJURIES. THE AIRPLANE CONTINUED TO BURN. A SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION FAILED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE WHERE THE FIRE ORIGINATED. THE PILOT DESCRIBED THE ORIGIN TO BE AN ELECTRICAL FIRE; HOWEVER, DURING THE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISENGAGE THE MASTER SWITCH.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, AND THE FIRE IN THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FOR REASONS UNDETERMINED.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM - FIRE

Occurrence #2: FIRE
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

2. MISC EQPT/FURNISHINGS - FIRE
3. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
5. UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	7765 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 185 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N812PC
Model/Series:	PA-32R-300 PA-32R-300	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BITTON, DANIEL A.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-K1G5D
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:	ORD, 667 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 360°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	WONDER LAKE, IL (10C)	Destination:	WAUKEGAN, IL (UGN)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight and On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STEPHEN A WILSON	Adopted Date:	09/29/1993
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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