



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	DOS PALOS, CA	Accident Number:	LAX00LA062
Date & Time:	01/02/2000, 1430 PST	Registration:	N7249T
Aircraft:	Cessna 172A	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

While en route to the practice area, the student pilot performed several practice turns. She noted a loss of altitude, added throttle to regain altitude, but did not receive corresponding power indication. She checked the fuel selector to make sure it was in the on position, and then checked the engine gages. No discrepancies were noted. Carburetor heat was applied with no response and the rpm's continued to drop. She crosschecked the engine instruments, and reapplied carburetor heat with no change. With the rpm's continuing to drop, she made an emergency landing in a plowed dirt field. The engine was inspected, and it was noted that the retaining nut that attaches the serrated throttle lever to the serrated throttle shaft of the carburetor was loose, and the cotter pin was missing. The serrated portion of the throttle lever was unable to properly engage with the serrated stop of the throttle shaft. The carburetor had been replaced during the annual inspection on June 6, 1999, to comply with Airworthiness Directives. No further discrepancies were noted.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A partial loss of engine power due to the failure of maintenance personnel to properly install and safety the throttle arm to the carburetor throttle shaft.

Findings

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

Findings

1. FUEL SYSTEM,CARBURETOR
2. (C) THROTTLE/POWER LEVER,LINKAGE - LOOSE PART/BOLT/NUT/CLAMP/ETC
3. (C) MAINTENANCE,INSTALLATION - IMPROPER - OTHER MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

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

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
5. LANDING GEAR,NOSE GEAR - SHEARED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	64 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N7249T
Model/Series:	172A 172A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	LANA L. BALATTI	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-300
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCE, 156 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 320°
Temperature:	55° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MERCED, CA (MCE)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	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):	TEALEYE C CORNEJO	Adopted Date:	12/14/2001
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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