



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	CHEROKEE, AL	Accident Number:	ATL90FA055
Date & Time:	02/02/1990, 1545 CST	Registration:	N5755L
Aircraft:	AMERICAN AA-1	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT EXPERIENCED A REDUCTION IN ENGINE POWER ABOUT 400 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND WHILE PERFORMING A ROLLING MANEUVER. THIS WAS THE THIRD ROLL NEAR HIS HOME AS HIS FAMILY WATCHED. REPORTEDLY, THE ENGINE 'STALLED,' THE PILOT LOST CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE, AND IT CRASHED IN A WOODED AREA. WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE CONDUCIVE TO THE FORMATION OF CARBURETOR ICING. THE AIRPLANE WAS NOT CERTIFIED FOR ROLLS. WRECKAGE EXAMINATION FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY PREIMPACT PART FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION. THE AIRPLANE WAS DESTROYED BY IMPACT FORCES AND A POST-CRASH FIRE.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: CARBURETOR ICE DUE TO THE PILOT'S IMPROPER USE OF CARBURETOR HEAT, AND FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE AFTER THE ENGINE LOST POWER. THE WEATHER (CARBURETOR ICING) CONDITION WAS A RELATED FACTOR.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. AEROBATICS - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CARBURETOR ICING CONDITIONS
3. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,CARBURETOR - ICE
4. (C) CARBURETOR HEAT - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

5. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	41
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AMERICAN	Registration:	N5755L
Model/Series:	AA-1 AA-1	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	TROY UPTAIN	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-C2C
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:	MSL, 550 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	22 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MUSCLE SHOALS, AL (MSL)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Adopted Date:	03/31/1993
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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