



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MINEOLA QUITMAN, TX	Accident Number:	FTW88LA045
Date & Time:	01/02/1988, 1515 CST	Registration:	N3709X
Aircraft:	AERO COMMANDER 100-180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING A PRACTICE TOUCH AND GO LANDING, THE ENGINE BACK FIRED AND THEN SURGED. AT ABOUT 150' AGL THE ENGINE RPM DROPPED ABOUT 80% AND THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN AN OPEN FIELD. THE AIRCRAFT FLEW OVER A TRASH DUMP AND BETWEEN TWO TREES. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR A FENCE THE STALL WARNING HORN WENT OFF. THE AIRCRAFT CONTACTED THE GROUND LEFT MAIN AND WING FIRST CAUSING SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE. EXAMINATION OF THE ENGINE FOUND THAT THE ENGINE EXHAUST MUFFLER HAD FAILED INTERNALLY BLOCKING THE EXHAUST OUTLET.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

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

Findings

1. CLIMB - NOT POSSIBLE
2. (C) EXHAUST SYSTEM,MUFFLER - FAILURE,PARTIAL
3. (C) EXHAUST SYSTEM,MUFFLER - BLOCKED(PARTIAL)

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

Findings

4. EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH OBSTRUCTION(S)
6. FLARE - NOT POSSIBLE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/15/1987
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	1444 hours (Total, all aircraft), 22 hours (Total, this make and model), 1444 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO COMMANDER	Registration:	N3709X
Model/Series:	100-180 100-180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5010
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/05/1987, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	22 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2178 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A2F
Registered Owner:	GLEN T. CLARK	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	GLEN T. CLARK	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 15000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	60°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	6° C / -8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(3T1)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	LITTLE ROCK, AR (1N1)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1500 CST	Type of Airspace:	Airport Advisory Area

Airport Information

Airport:	QUITMAN ARPT. (3T1)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	435 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3400 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RALPH L WILSON	Report Date:	06/09/1989
Additional Participating Persons:	JERRY ROBERTS; DALLAS, TX		
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](#).