



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	CRIDERS, VA	Accident Number:	BFO89LA040
Date & Time:	06/01/1989, 1136 EDT	Registration:	N2602L
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-38-112	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE TAKEOFF WAS BEING MADE TO THE EAST ON THE PILOT'S PRIVATE AIRSTRIP. THE PLT REPORTED WINDS FROM THE NORTH AT 5 KTS GUSTING TO 10 KTS. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT AFTER TAKEOFF AT AN ALT OF APRX 30 FT AGL THE ACFT VEERED RIGHT AND DESCENDED INTO A WOODED AREA WHICH BORDERED THE AIRSTRIP. THE PLT REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO FAILURES OR MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS OF THE AIRPLANE OR ITS SYSTEMS.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT FAILED TO MAINTAIN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE DURING THE CROSSWIND CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE INITIAL TAKEOFF CLIMB.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
 2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1750 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N2602L
Model/Series:	PA-38-112 PA-38-112	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DERWITT W. SMITH	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
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:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / 10 knots, 360°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination: NEW MARKET, VA (VA86)		

Airport Information

Airport:	SMITHS	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	9	Runway Surface Condition:	Vegetation
Runway Length/Width:	1800 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	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): PAMELA S KLECKNER

Adopted Date: 08/22/1990

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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