



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	OCEAN CITY, MD	Accident Number:	BFO89LA053
Date & Time:	07/01/1989, 1500 EDT	Registration:	N7521F
Aircraft:	CHAMPION 7GCBC	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use		

Analysis

THE PLT REPORTED THAT HE WAS FLYING OVER WATER ALONG THE BEACHFRONT AT 200 FT MSL, WITH THE ENGINE SET AT 2250 RPM. HE HEARD A FAINT SOUND FROM THE ENGINE AND SENSED THAT THE MUFFLER WAS SEPARATING. HE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO CLIMB. THE ENGINE ONLY DEVELOPED 2200 RPM AT FULL THROTTLE. HE DROPPED THE BANNER AND SOON AFTERWARD THE ENGINE LOST POWER. THE PLT STATED THAT A BURNING SMELL FILLED THE CABIN; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SEE ANY SMOKE. HE DITCHED THE ACFT AND USED A LIFE PRESERVER TO FLOAT ASHORE. EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT REVEALED MATERIAL FAILURE OF THE EXHAUST PIPE AT THE NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR CYLINDER EXHAUST STACK JOINT, WHERE IT CONNECTS TO THE MUFFLER. ALSO NOTED WAS SOOT AND SMOKE DISCOLORATION INSIDE THE CARBURETOR INLET CHAMBER.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER FROM EXHAUST GAS LEAKAGE INTO THE CARBURETOR INLET, CAUSING ENGINE AIR STARVATION, AND MATERIAL FAILURE OF THE EXHAUST MANIFOLD.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) EXHAUST SYSTEM,MANIFOLD/PIPE - FAILURE,PARTIAL
2. (C) EXHAUST SYSTEM,MANIFOLD/PIPE - LEAK

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Occurrence #3: DITCHING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	24
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	605 hours (Total, all aircraft), 195 hours (Total, this make and model), 414 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CHAMPION	Registration:	N7521F
Model/Series:	7GCBC 7GCBC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	OCEAN AERIAL ADS, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A2B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SBY, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:			Destination:

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DENNIS L JONES	Adopted Date:	09/30/1991
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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