



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FREMONT, CA	Accident Number:	LAX89LA258
Date & Time:	08/01/1989, 2100 PDT	Registration:	N5298B
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

AFTER TAKING OFF FROM AN AIRPORT DURING THE HOURS OF DAYLIGHT, THE PILOT RETURNED DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS AND ATTEMPTED TO LAND ON A RUNWAY THAT DID NOT HAVE RUNWAY LIGHTS INSTALLED. HE LANDED IN A DITCH THAT PARALLELED THE RUNWAY, WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED THE AIRCRAFT.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S IMPROPER INFLIGHT DECISION TO LAND ON AN UNLIGHTED RUNWAY DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS. DARKNESS AND THE LACK OF RUNWAY LIGHTS WERE RELATED FACTORS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY EDGE LIGHTS - UNAVAILABLE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	600 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5298B
Model/Series:	152 152	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	HARMATA, JULIE	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:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SJC, 56 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable / , 330°
Temperature:	-18° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(4CA7)	Destination:	(4CA7)

Airport Information

Airport:	FREMONT (4CA7)	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2310 ft / 40 ft		

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

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JAMES A WALL	Adopted Date:	06/30/1992
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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