



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	HAYWARD, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX90LA046
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	12/02/1989, 1425 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N3350W
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-32-437	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

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## Analysis

PILOT REPORTED ALL TANKS WERE DRAINED PRIOR TO ENGINE START. POWER LOSS OCCURRED RIGHT AFTER TAKEOFF; LANDED ADJACENT TO RUNWAY DAMAGING GEAR AND PROP. PILOT ALSO REPORTED THAT APPARENTLY THE BLUE SEEN IN THE FUEL SAMPLE WAS A REFLECTION OF SKY COLORING - NOT FUEL.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: ENGINE FAILURE DUE TO WATER IN FUEL THAT WAS NOT DISCOVERED BY THE PILOT DURING HIS PREFLIGHT INSPECTION OF THE FUEL SYSTEM.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - WATER
2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	45, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	01/30/1989
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1550 hours (Total, all aircraft), 350 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N3350W
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-32-437 PA-32-437	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>		<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	EO-540-E4B5
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	LEROY PIERCE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	LEROY PIERCE	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	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:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	16 °C / -18 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LIVERMORE, CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	HAYWARD (HWD)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	47 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3000 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

## 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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	R. GARY MUCHO	Report Date:	06/22/1992
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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](#).