



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	IMPERIAL, TX	Accident Number:	FTW87FA184
Date & Time:	08/01/1987, 1415 CDT	Registration:	N5998Y
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-23-250	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious, 3 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

AFTER TAKEOFF, THE PLT ELECTED TO FLY LOW OVER A RESERVOIR. HE STATED THAT AS HE BEGAN A PASS, NOT FAR FROM THE WATER'S EDGE, THE ACFT ENCTRD A SINK. HE SAID HE ' . . . CHECKED POWER, ALL OK, PLANE JUST SEEMED TO LOSE ALL LIFT . . . ' SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT STRUCK THE WATER, CRASHED & BEGAN SINKING. FIVE OCCUPANTS EGRESSED FROM THE ACFT; THE 6TH RECEIVED FATAL INJURIES. WITNESSES SAW THE ACFT FLYING AT A VERY LOW ALT OVER THE WATER BEFORE THE PLANE CRASHED. THEY RPRTD THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE PLT HAD MADE LOW PASSES OVER THE RESERVOIR IN THE SAME MANNER. THE PLT'S LAST MED CERT WAS DATED 11/16/84; THE ACFT'S LAST ANNUAL INSPN WAS DATED 8/15/84. DRG A WEIGHT & BALANCE CHECK, THE ACFT'S CG WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN .2 INCH BEHIND THE AFT LIMIT.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) AIRCRAFT WEIGHT AND BALANCE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) LOW PASS - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
6. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	375 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N5998Y
Model/Series:	PA-23-250 PA-23-250	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	ALBERT L. GANDY	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-C4B5
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:	MAF, 2871 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots / , 150°
Temperature:	34° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GRAND FALLS, TX	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious, 2 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARMOND V EDWARDS	Adopted Date:	03/31/1989
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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