



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ALEXANDER CITY, AL	Accident Number:	ATL86LA068
Date & Time:	02/01/1986, 1500 CST	Registration:	N52238
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172P	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT WAS OBSERVED TO MAKE ONE TAKEOFF AND LANDING FROM AN UNIMPROVED PASTURE. THE SECOND TAKEOFF ATTEMPTED WAS UNSUCCESSFUL AND THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH A TREE AND CRASHED TO THE GROUND. THE PLT DID NOT REPORT ANY MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE ACFT. THERE WERE THREE PASSENGERS ONBOARD FOR THIS LAST TAKEOFF ATTEMPT.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) IMPROPER DECISION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) PERFORMANCE DATA - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) ABORTED TAKEOFF - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. OBJECT - TREE(S)
7. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/24/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N52238
Model/Series:	172P 172P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	172-74451
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/21/1985, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	59 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	857 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320-02J
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	WILLIAM G.BIRCHFIELD	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MGM, 221 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	70 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2050 CST	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C / -1° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	NEW SITE, AL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1500 CST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CHARLES T FOUTS	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	ROBERT L LEMASTER; BIRMINGHAM,		
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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](#).