



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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| Location: | WEYERS CAVE, VA | Accident Number: | ATL83FA095 |
| Date & Time: | 02/03/1983, 1400 EST | Registration: | N3440R |
| Aircraft: | CESSNA 182L | Injuries: | 1 Fatal, 2 Serious, 1 Minor |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED AFTER TAKEOFF WHEN THE ENGINE LOST POWER. THE ACFT HAD NOT BEEN FLOWN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. AN INSTRUCTOR WAS INVITED ON THE EXTENDED CROSS-COUNTRY TO HELP THE PILOT WHO ALSO HAD NOT FLOWN FOR SOME TIME. DURING THE PRE-FLIGHT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WATER WAS DRAINED FROM THE LEFT FUEL TANK. THE MECHANIC WHO HAD JUST RECENTLY COMPLETED AN ANNUAL INSPECTION ON THE ACFT WAS CALLED OVER TO HELP DRAIN THE WATER. THE MECHANIC DRAINED 15 GALLONS OF FUEL BEFORE THE FUEL WAS FREE OF WATER. THE LEFT TANK CAP ALSO WAS FOUND TO NEED A NEW SEAL AND WAS TAPED UNTIL THEY COULD GET A SEAL. THE ACFT HAD TO BE JUMP-STARTED. AFTER STARTING THEY DECIDED TO USE ALL 6000 FT OF RUNWAY 22 FOR TAKEOFF. DURING TAKEOFF THE ENGINE BEGAN TO CUT OUT WHEN IT REACHED AN ALTITUDE OF 100-200 FEET IN THE AIR, REGAINED POWER MOMENTARILY AND STOPPED. THE ACFT TURNED LEFT, LANDED ON A SLOPING FIELD AND CAREENED DOWN INTO A CREEK BED. THE ACFT CAME TO REST ON ITS SIDE HALF SUBMERGED. TWO OCCUPANTS WERE EJECTED. ONE OF THE TWO DROWNED IN THE CREEK.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) FLUID,FUEL - WATER
2. (C) ACFT/EQUIP,INADEQUATE DESIGN - MANUFACTURER
3. (F) FUEL SYSTEM,TANK - DISTORTED
4. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Pilot Information

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 35 |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Instrument Rating(s): | None |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | | Instructor Rating(s): | |
| Flight Time: | 1200 hours (Total, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | CESSNA | Registration: | N3440R |
| Model/Series: | 182L 182L | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Operator: | AUGUSTA FARM LAND CORPORATION | Engine Manufacturer: | CONTINENTAL |
| Operating Certificate(s) Held: | | Engine Model/Series: | O-470-R |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | , 0 ft msl | Weather Information Source: | Witness |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None / 0 ft agl | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | 8 knots / 23 knots, 220° |
| Temperature: | 7° C | Visibility | 7 Miles |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | | Destination: | ROANOKE, VA (ROA) |

Airport Information

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|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Airport: | SHENANDOAH VALLEY (SHD) | Runway Surface Type: | Grass/turf |
| Runway Used: | 22 | Runway Surface Condition: | Wet |
| Runway Length/Width: | 6000 ft / 150 ft | | |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): RICHARD P SHIPMAN

Adopted 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 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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