



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Summerville, GA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL03LA091
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	05/04/2003, 1900 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	None
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Homebuilt Unkown	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

According to family members, the uncertificated person operated his airplane from a private airstrip about 1/4 mile from the accident site. Shortly after take off the airplane collided with the ground. A witness reported a loud noise, and thought a car had crashed. The sheriff department dispatched deputies to the scene and discovered the downed airplane. Examination of the downed airplane revealed that the flight controls were conected and moved freely. The fuel tanks were not breached and fuel was found in both wing tanks. The uncertificated pilot did not report any problems with the airplane prior to the accident.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain airspeed which resulted in an inadvertent stall, and subsequent collision with the ground.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Factual Information

On May 4, 2003, at 1900 eastern daylight time, a homebuilt, unregistered airplane, operated by an uncertificated pilot, collided with the ground while attempting to takeoff from a private grass airstrip in Summerville, Georgia. The personal flight was operated under the provision of Title 14 CFR Part 91 and visual flight rules. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The airplane was substantially damaged and the uncertificated pilot received serious injuries. The flight departed Summerville, Georgia, at 1857 on May 4, 2003.

According to family members, the uncertificated pilot operated his airplane from a private airstrip about 1/4 mile from the accident site. At the approximated time of the accident, a witness reported a loud noise and thought a car had crashed. The sheriff department dispatched deputies to the scene and discovered the downed airplane.

The wreckage distribution covered an area of 40 feet long and 30 feet wide along a magnetic path of 230 degrees. Examination of the downed airplane revealed that the right wing had crush damage with pieces of tree bark embedded into the leading edge. A broken tree with pieces of bark missing was located two feet away from the right wing. The flight controls were connected and moved freely. The fuel tanks were not breached and fuel was found in both wing tanks.

The uncertificated pilot did not report any problems with the airplane prior to the accident.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Age:</b>	50, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Homebuilt	Registration:	None
Model/Series:	Unkown	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	40 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RMG, 644 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	35 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1853 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	300°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 5000 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.92 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26° C / 18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Summerville, GA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Summerville, GA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1900 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	34.666667, -85.500000

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Phillip Powell **Report Date:** 09/01/2004

**Additional Participating Persons:** Judy Palmer; Atlanta FSDO-11; College Park, GA

**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 [pubinq@ntsb.gov](mailto: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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