



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Chadron, NE	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI03LA244
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/02/2003, 0815 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N70522
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper J3C-65	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The airplane was substantially damaged when it impacted a hangar immediately after takeoff from an alfalfa field. The pilot reported that he taxied for takeoff, leaving what he thought was sufficient distance for the takeoff roll and initial climb. He noted that during the takeoff, at a point three-quarters of the distance to the hangar, he realized he was not going to be able to clear the obstacles. The pilot stated: "I was in a nose up attitude to try to clear the hangar but could not gain enough altitude. I hit the hangar just left of center and the plane fell back to the ground." The field was approximately one mile square and was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence. The available distance from the point where the takeoff was initiated to the hangar was approximately 730 feet. The takeoff path reportedly sloped upward about 10 feet. The pilot reported that there were no malfunctions with the aircraft or engine prior to the accident. Winds in the vicinity were reported from the south at eight knots. Temperature and dew point were 22 degrees Celsius and 29.98 inches of mercury. Density altitude was calculated as 4,847 feet. Federal regulations require the pilot-in-command to review takeoff distance data prior to flight to ensure sufficient runway distance is available.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Inadequate preflight planning by the pilot to ensure the required takeoff distance was utilized, as well as a failure to abort the takeoff. Contributing factors were the uphill gradient and the hangar.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  2. (C) ABORTED TAKEOFF - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (F) OBJECT - HANGAR/AIRPORT BUILDING
  4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - UPHILL
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	54
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	836 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 782 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N70522
<b>Model/Series:</b>	J3C-65	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	C65
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	CDR, 3297 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	8 knots / , 160°
<b>Temperature:</b>	22° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Chadron, NE (PVT)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Pvt	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	N/A	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	42.933333, -103.000000		

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Tim Sorensen

**Adopted Date:** 12/30/2003

**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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