



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	San Antonio, TX	Accident Number:	FTW03LA200
Date & Time:	07/01/2003, 1040 CDT	Registration:	N84426
Aircraft:	Champion 7AC	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While flying over a wild animal orphanage and observing the animals, the pilot stated that he started losing altitude after completing a turn. The pilot added that he "straightened it out, but he still couldn't maintain altitude." The airplane came to rest nose down in a wooded area inside the animal sanctuary. The IIC calculated the density altitude to be approximately 3,288 feet at the time of the accident.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain minimum required airspeed while maneuvering, resulting in an inadvertent stall of the airplane.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

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

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

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	68
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	761 hours (Total, all aircraft), 761 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Champion	Registration:	N84426
Model/Series:	7AC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Louis Viggiano Jr.	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	A65-8
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:	SAT, 1000 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 70°
Temperature:	33° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	San Antonio, TX (8T8)	Destination:	San Antonio, TX (8T8)

Airport Information

Airport:	San Geronimo Airpark (8T8)	Runway Surface Type:	Unknown
Runway Used:		Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	29.452222, -98.781111		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Frank McGill	Adopted Date:	11/25/2003
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 , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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