



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Jal, NM	Accident Number:	DEN05TA033
Date & Time:	12/01/2004, 0740 MST	Registration:	N734
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18-150	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

The pilot elected to land on a paved road after circling three times to "check for obstacles and hazards." The pilot noted the power lines and "planned [his] final approach well above the power lines." During the final approach, the pilot lost sight of the power lines "due to the early morning sun." The main landing gear impacted one of the lines. Subsequently, the airplane impacted in a nose down attitude causing substantial damage.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain clearance from the power lines. Contributing factors include the power lines, the sun glare, the pilot's reduced visual lookout, the pilot's improper in-flight planning and decision making and the pilot's failure to perform a go-around procedure after losing sight of the power lines.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - WIRE,STATIC
2. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - SUNGLARE
4. (F) VISUAL LOOKOUT - RESTRICTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) GO-AROUND - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

7. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	15589 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9000 hours (Total, this make and model), 15380 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 87 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N734
Model/Series:	PA-18-150	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	United States Department of Agriculture	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4M
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	INK, 2820 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 90°
Temperature:	2°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Roswell, NM (ROW)	Destination:	Brininstool Ran, NM

Airport Information

Airport:	NA	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	32.065000, -103.558333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Arnold W Scott

Adopted Date: 03/30/2005

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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