



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|                                |                                      |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Scotts, MI                           | <b>Accident Number:</b> | CHI06CA091 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 03/04/2006, 1500 EST                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N46365     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Balkema STOL Aircraft                | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Destroyed  |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |                                      | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |            |

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## Analysis

The experimental amateur-built airplane impacted terrain during a forced landing to a field following a loss of engine power on downwind. A ground fire subsequently destroyed the airplane. Examination of the wreckage did not reveal any anomalies in reference to the engine's power loss.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The in-flight loss of engine power on downwind for undetermined reasons and the post-impact ground fire that burned the airplane while it was standing.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - DOWNWIND

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

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Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

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Occurrence #4: FIRE

Phase of Operation: STANDING

Findings

3. AIRFRAME - BURNED

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |                  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 70, Male         |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land                                  | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Unknown          |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | Helicopter   | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   | Shoulder harness |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane   | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             |                  |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | None   | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No               |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations                                       | <b>Last Medical Exam:</b>                | 10/01/2004       |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       |  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |                  |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 7133 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Total, this make and model) |  |                  |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |               |   |                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>        | Balkema       | <b>Registration:</b>                      | N46365          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | STOL Aircraft | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>                 | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |               | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                     | Yes             |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Experimental  | <b>Serial Number:</b>                     | 006             |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Unknown       | <b>Seats:</b>                             |                 |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> |               | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>           |                 |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |               | <b>Engines:</b>                           | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |               | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>               | LOM             |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Not installed | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>               | M332B           |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | John Balkema  | <b>Rated Power:</b>                       |                 |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | John Balkema  | <b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b> | None            |

### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |                                     |                   |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | AZO, 874 ft msl                  | <b>Observation Time:</b>            | 1453 EST          |
| <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>     | 3 Nautical Miles                 | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Day               |
| <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>    | 270°                             | <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b> | Visual Conditions |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Few / 4000 ft agl                | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>       | 3° C / -7° C      |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  |                                  | <b>Visibility:</b>                  |                   |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>     | 10 knots, 250°                   | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>            |                   |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30.41 inches Hg                  | <b>Visibility (RVV):</b>            |                   |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                                     |                   |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Scotts, MI (66MI)                | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>   | None              |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     |                                  | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>           | None              |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 1500 EST                         | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>            |                   |

## Airport Information

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                            |           |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | Destroyed |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | On-Ground |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None      |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 1 None |                            |           |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |                      |            |
|--|---|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Edward F Malinowski   | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 06/28/2006 |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | John Golda; Grand Rapids, MI  |                      |            |
| <b>Publish Date:</b>                     |   |                      |            |
| <b>Note:</b>                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.   |                      |            |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | NTSB accident and incident docket 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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> . |                      |            |

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