



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Washington, IN	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI07FA052
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/02/2007, 1400 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	N678DC
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beech 58	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The airplane impacted trees and terrain while attempting to return to the departure airport after takeoff. The pilot of another airplane who witnessed the takeoff reported that the accident airplane's takeoff appeared "normal." After takeoff, he noticed the accident airplane about 1.5 miles from the departure airport. It appeared to be in a 45 to 60-degree bank turn back towards the airport, below the level of a tree line. The accident airplane subsequently struck the tree line and came to rest in an agricultural field. The post accident inspection did not reveal any anomalies associated with a pre-impact failure of the flight control system. In addition, examination of both engines did not reveal any failures or malfunctions consistent with a loss of engine power prior to the accident. Examination of the left alternator indicated that it was unable to provide the rated electrical power. Examination of the right alternator did not reveal any anomalies, and the unit appeared to be functional. According to an acquaintance of the pilot, the accident airplane was en route to a maintenance facility for a routine annual inspection. He noted that the left alternator appeared to be inoperative prior to the accident flight and that the mechanic had been advised to look at it during the inspection. He knew of no other problems with the airplane prior to the accident flight.

## 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 trees and terrain while attempting to return to the departure airport for undetermined reasons after takeoff. The intervening tree line was a contributing factor.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
3. ELECTRICAL SYSTEM,ALTERNATOR - FAILURE

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

### Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	64
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; 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>	991 hours (Total, all aircraft), 572 hours (Total, this make and model), 719 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Beech	<b>Registration:</b>	N678DC
<b>Model/Series:</b>	58	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-550-C (6)
<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>	LWV, 430 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	6 knots / , 160°
<b>Temperature:</b>	7° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Washington, IN (DCY)	<b>Destination:</b>	Hartford, KY (7K4)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Daviess County (DCY)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	36	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	4621 ft / 75 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<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>	38.671389, -87.130833		

## Administrative Information

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

**Adopted Date:** 03/31/2008

**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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