



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Alexandria, MN	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI08LA180
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/02/2008, 0700 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N601TS
<b>Aircraft:</b>	SMITH Aerostar 601P	<b>Injuries:</b>	4 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that on the previous flight the left engine surged at 14,700 feet and the flight could not be conducted at the planned altitude of 19,000 feet. He stated that during descent to land the engines performed normally at lower altitudes. After landing he talked with a mechanic on the telephone and a decision was made to conduct the next leg of the trip at a lower altitude. During the takeoff, a loss of power was experienced and the pilot attempted to return to the airport. During the turn back to the airport, the airplane lost altitude and the pilot decided to turn away from the populated areas and land the airplane in a field. During the landing the airplane struck a ditch. An examination of the airplane subsequent to the accident did not reveal any defects that would have resulted in a loss of engine power.

## Flight Events

Initial climb - Loss of engine power (partial)  
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing  
Landing - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The loss of engine power for undetermined reasons. Contributing to the accident was the unsuitable terrain for the forced landing.

## Findings

Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-(general)-Contributed to outcome  
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	59
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine
<b>Flight Time:</b>	8600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 8200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 69 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	SMITH	<b>Registration:</b>	N601TS
<b>Model/Series:</b>	Aerostar 601P	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-540
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	AXN, 1425 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	12 knots, 360°
<b>Temperature:</b>	17°C / 9°C	<b>Visibility</b>	8 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Alexandria, MN (AXN)	<b>Destination:</b>	ST LOUIS, MO (IHO)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Chandler Field Airport (AXN)	<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>	3 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	John M Brannen	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	09/30/2009
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <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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