



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Lakeland, FL	Accident Number:	ERA10LA251
Date & Time:	05/01/2010, 1852 EDT	Registration:	N34926
Aircraft:	INTERSTATE S1A	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After takeoff, the airplane climbed about 500 feet and turned to the left. It subsequently entered a nose-dive configuration and descended rapidly. As the airplane neared the ground, it appeared to assume a level attitude consistent with the pilot recovering from the nose dive. The airplane clipped a tree and landed hard in a field. A postaccident examination of the airplane revealed three large propeller strikes along the ground. Flight control continuity was established to all flight control surfaces and examination of the engine and system components revealed no evidence of preimpact mechanical malfunctions. No conclusive physical evidence was found to determine the reason for the sudden loss of altitude and resultant hard landing.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Unknown or undetermined
Other - Miscellaneous/other

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 terrain for undetermined reasons.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action performance-Pilot - C
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 4 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	INTERSTATE	Registration:	N34926
Model/Series:	S1A UNDESIGNAT	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	A65
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAL, 142 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 160°
Temperature:	32° C / 20° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lakeland, FL	Destination:	Winter Haven, FL (GIF)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric Alleyne	Adopted Date:	06/13/2011
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75906		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.