



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Livermore, CA	Accident Number:	WPR15FA174
Date & Time:	06/01/2015, 2058 PDT	Registration:	N1348C
Aircraft:	PIPER PA 22-135	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On June 1, 2015, about 2058 Pacific daylight time, a Piper PA22-135, N1348C, collided with terrain while maneuvering near Livermore Municipal Airport, Livermore, California. The pilot/owner was operating the airplane under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 91. The airline transport pilot sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was destroyed during the accident sequence and post impact fire. The local personal flight departed Livermore at 2052. Night visual meteorological conditions (VMC) prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed.

The pilot made a downwind departure. Shortly after takeoff, he reported a control difficulty to air traffic control tower personnel; he stated that he was going to make a circle, and troubleshoot the issue. There were no further transmissions.

A witness about 1/2 mile away said that the airplane caught his attention when he heard the engine cut out. He looked up, but couldn't see the airplane as it was dusk. He then heard the engine revving to a higher rpm. He heard the engine sputter twice, and then rev up again. He finally saw two outboard lights, one on each wing, and the airplane was in a nose dive straight down. It was not spinning, and the engine sounded like it was at full throttle.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigator and a Federal Aviation Administration inspector examined the wreckage on site. A propeller blade had separated about 6 inches from the hub along an angular plane. The rest of the propeller was in the principal impact crater (PIC); it was not charred. The main wreckage was burned, and was in the middle of a charred area. All of the fabric was consumed by fire.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N1348C
Model/Series:	PA 22-135	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	SEAL MICHAEL L	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLVK	Observation Time:	2053 PDT
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2200 ft agl	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:		Temperature/Dew Point:	17° C / 12° C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots, 280°	Visibility	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Livermore, CA (LVK)	Destination:	Livermore, CA (LVK)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Howard D Plagens
Additional Participating Persons:	David Jensen; Oakland; Oakland, CA Charles Little; Piper Aircraft Inc; Vero Beach, FL Mark Platt; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.