



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Opa Locka, FL	Accident Number:	ERA16LA053
Date & Time:	12/01/2015, 1037 EST	Registration:	N5568J
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32	Injuries:	3 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On December 1, 2015, at 1037 eastern standard time, a Piper PA 32-260, N5568J, was substantially damaged during a forced landing shortly after taking off from Opa Locka Executive Airport (KOPF), Miami, Florida. The private pilot and two passengers sustained serious injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a visual flight rules flight plan had been filed for the flight to South Bimini Airport (MYBS), South Bimini, The Bahamas. The personal flight was operating under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

According to the pilot, as the airplane was climbing through about 800 feet, the front seat passenger asked him if he "smelled something." The pilot stated that he did and they both then saw "light smoke up around the dash and windshield area." The pilot commenced a turn back toward the airport, and almost immediately, there was a total engine failure. The pilot advised the control tower of the problem, but realizing that the airplane couldn't make it to the airport, picked the only place he felt he could reasonably complete the forced landing.

According to the responding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector, the airplane first touched down on top of a parked tractor trailer, bounced over a canal, and came to rest upside down on a berm.

The airplane was not examined at the scene, but was instead taken to a storage facility where it will be examined at a later date.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N5568J
Model/Series:	PA-32 260	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	OPF, 8 ft msl	Observation Time:	1541 UTC
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 1800 ft agl	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2700 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 23°C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 70°	Visibility	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Departure Point:	Opa Locka, FL (KOPF)	Destination:	South Bimini (MYBS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Serious		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Paul R Cox
Additional Participating Persons:	Roberto Rodriguez; FAA/FSDO; Miramar, FL
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.