



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

|                                |                                      |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Miami, FL                            | <b>Accident Number:</b> | ERA16LA103 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 02/02/2016, 1134 EST                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N8466G     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | PIPER PA 28-161                      | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |            |

## Analysis

The private pilot was flying over the ocean and just off the coast when an air traffic controller asked him to descend to 500 ft. The pilot reduced engine power and applied carburetor heat until he reached the assigned altitude, and he then attempted to increase engine power and level off; however, even with the throttle full forward, the engine power remained at its previous setting. The pilot attempted to resolve the situation, but he was unable to maintain altitude and ditched the airplane in the ocean. Although weather conditions were conducive to serious icing at glide power, the pilot had applied carburetor heat during the descent which should have melted any carburetor ice during the descent. A postaccident examination of the airframe and engine revealed no evidence of mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation. The cause for the partial loss of engine power could not be determined.

## Flight Events

Enroute - Loss of engine power (partial)  
Emergency descent - Ditching

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A partial loss of engine power for reasons that could not be determined because postaccident examination of the airplane revealed no mechanical anomalies that would have contributed to the power loss.

## Findings

Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

## Pilot Information

|                                  |   |                              |      |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 20   |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | 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>              | 86 hours (Total, all aircraft), 86 hours (Total, this make and model), 30 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 84 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 48 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                              |      |

## Pilot-Rated Passenger Information

|                                  |   |                              |      |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 24   |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | 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>              | 175 hours (Total, all aircraft), 96 hours (Total, this make and model), 137 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 71 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 56 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                              |      |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|   |                                      |                             |                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>             | PIPER                                | <b>Registration:</b>        | N8466G          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                      | PA 28-161 161                        | <b>Engines:</b>             | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Operator:</b>                          | Airborne Career Academy              | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | LYCOMING        |
| <b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b> | Pilot School (141)                   | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | O-320           |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>            | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                             |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |                                     |                              |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | OPF, 8 ft msl                    | <b>Weather Information Source:</b>  | Weather Observation Facility |
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual Conditions                | <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>              | Overcast / 3100 ft agl       |
| <b>Condition of Light:</b>              | Day                              | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 15 knots, 120°               |
| <b>Temperature:</b>                     | 27° C / 19° C                    | <b>Visibility</b>                   | 10 Miles                     |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                                     |                              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Marathon, FL (MTH)               | <b>Destination:</b>                 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL (FXE)     |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                            |             |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | Substantial |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | None        |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None        |

## Administrative Information

|                                      |   |                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b> | Leah D Read   | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 09/01/2016 |
| <b>Note:</b>                         | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.  |                      |            |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>         | <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92683">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92683</a> |                      |            |

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