



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Blairstown, NJ	Accident Number:	ERA17LA042
Date & Time:	11/10/2016, 0915 EST	Registration:	N8849H
Aircraft:	NORTH AMERICAN NAVION	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry		

On November 10, 2016, about 0915 eastern standard time, a North American Navion, N8849H, was substantially damaged following a loss of control during engine startup at Blairstown Airport (1N7), Blairstown, New Jersey. The private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated by the private pilot as a personal flight conducted under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the planned flight to Capital City Airport (CXY), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

According to a mechanic who witnessed the accident, the pilot/owner last flew the accident airplane in December 2015, when it experienced a gear-up landing at 1N7. The airplane remained at the airport while the mechanic repaired damage from the gear-up landing. The repairs were completed and the airplane was supposed to be ferried to CXY for an annual inspection during the day prior to the accident. A different pilot was going to ferry the airplane, but poor weather postponed the flight. That pilot was not available on the day of the accident and the owner/pilot elected to fly the airplane to CXY himself.

During the morning of the accident, the mechanic taxied the airplane from the hangar to the fuel pump. During which, he performed an engine run-up and did not notice any anomalies with the airplane. The mechanic added that he had performed several run-ups while the airplane was at 1N7 and never experienced any anomalies with the throttle control or brakes. After fueling the airplane and completion of a preflight inspection, the pilot/owner started the engine and it went immediately to full power. The engine remained at full power and the airplane taxied at high speed into a tree.

Examination of the wreckage by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector revealed substantial damage to the wings and fuselage. The inspector noted that the throttle, propeller, and mixture controls were all in the full forward position. The hydraulic and alternate air controls were in the retracted position. The wreckage was retained for further examination.

The pilot/owner, age 73, held a private pilot certificate with a rating for airplane single-engine land. His most recent FAA third-class medical certificate was issued on January 30, 2016. At that time, he reported a total flight experience of 1,445 hours.

The four-seat, low-wing, retractable tricycle-gear airplane, serial number NAV-4-849, was manufactured in 1947. It was powered by a Continental IO-520, 285-horsepower engine, equipped with a constant-speed Hartzell propeller. The pilot purchased the airplane in 2009. Its most recent annual inspection was completed on August 21, 2015. At that time, the airframe had accumulated approximately 2,052 total hours of operation and the engine had accumulated about 417 hours since major overhaul. The airplane had been operated for about 14 hours from the time of the last inspection, until the accident.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	NORTH AMERICAN	Registration:	N8849H
Model/Series:	NAVION UNDESIGNAT	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	SINGER SAM	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MPO, 1915 ft msl	Observation Time:	0853 EST
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 1200 ft agl	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Temperature/Dew Point:	3°C / -1°C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots, 310°	Visibility	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Blairstown, NJ (1N7)	Destination:	Harrisburg, PA (CXY)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Robert J Gretz
Additional Participating Persons:	Joseph Brown; FAA/FSDO; Allentown, PA Nicole Channon; Continental Motors; Mobile, AL
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.