



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Port Isabel, TX	Accident Number:	CEN20FA108
Date & Time:	02/28/2020, 1949 CST	Registration:	N407WJ
Aircraft:	Cessna 150	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On February 28, 2020 at 1949 central standard time, a Cessna 150M airplane, N407WJ, impacted terrain about 1.5 miles east of the Port Isabel-Cameron County Airport (PIL), Port Isabel, Texas. The private pilot was fatally injured, and the airplane was destroyed. The airplane was operated by the pilot as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the airplane's co-owner, about 1530, the pilot asked him if he'd like to perform some touch and go landings at PIL. The co-owner stated he could not go on the flight.

Preliminary air traffic control radar data showed the airplane departed runway 13 about 1943. The airplane conducted one left traffic pattern flight and it could not be determined if the airplane performed a touch and go, or a go-around. The airplane then turned left crosswind for runway 13, and the last radar target indicated the airplane was at 250 ft above ground level and 125 knots ground speed.

The airplane wreckage was located on March 1, 2020.

Postaccident examination revealed the airplane impacted mesquite trees and terrain, and a postimpact fire ensued. The outboard 8 ft of the left wing and portions of the nose landing gear were located near the initial impact point. The cockpit, fuselage, right wing, and empennage were consumed by fire. Flight control cable continuity was established from the cockpit to all flight control surfaces.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N407WJ
Model/Series:	150 M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PIL, 18 ft msl	Observation Time:	1953 CST
Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / 7° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 120°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.36 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Port Isabel, TX (PIL)	Destination:	Port Isabel, TX (PIL)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	26.165833, -97.330278 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Aaron M Sauer
Additional Participating Persons:	Clifford Carpenter; FAA; San Antonio, TX Casey Love; Textron Aviation; Wichita, KS
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.