



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Pineville, LA	Accident Number:	CEN20LA199
Date & Time:	05/31/2020, 1330 CDT	Registration:	N6461J
Aircraft:	PIPER PA28	Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On May 31, 2020, about 1330 central daylight time, a Piper PA28-180, N6461J, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Pineville, Louisiana. The private pilot and 1 passenger were fatally injured and 1 passenger was seriously injured. The airplane was being operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 91 personal flight.

One witness, who was a certified flight instructor (CFI), reported that he saw the airplane takeoff from runway 36 at Pineville Municipal Airport (2LO). He stated that the airplane struggled to climb to clear the trees at the end of the runway. The airplane then made a hard left turn, about 400 feet AGL, to the west. The airplane then banked to the east with wings vertical in an "apparent stall/spin situation." The airplane then descended below the tree line. Another CFI-rated witness reported that he saw the airplane takeoff from runway 36 at 2LO. He stated that the airplane was "struggling" to climb. When the airplane was about 400 feet AGL, he saw the airplane make a left turn with about a 60° to 75° bank angle. The airplane then entered a heading of about 270°, holding a very steep bank angle, then continued the left bank to a easterly heading and disappeared behind the tree line. Both CFI witnesses were located at 2LO.

A third pilot-rated witness, who was driving along an adjacent road to 2LO, stated that he saw the airplane in a climb pitch attitude just after departure from 2LO. About 5 seconds later, he saw the airplane roll into an increasingly steep bank, about 200 to 300 feet AGL, and subsequently "enter an accelerated stall." The nose of the airplane then fell into a pitch down attitude and the airplane descended out of sight below a tree line.

There were no radio or distress calls heard from the pilot. The accident site was located in a heavily wooded area, about 1.5 miles from the departure end of runway 36 at 2LO. Figure 1 depicts the accident site in relation to the departure end of runway 36 and the airport. Local authorities rescued the surviving passenger and secured the accident site. After initial on-site examinations, the airplane wreckage was transported to a secure facility for further examinations.



Figure 1. Accident Site in Proximity to Runway 36 at Pineville Municipal Airport

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N6461J
Model/Series:	PA28 180	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:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	AEX, 100 ft msl	Observation Time:	1353 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	30° C / 16° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 30°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.11 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Pineville, LA (2LO)	Destination:	Pineville, LA (2LO)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	31.348333, -92.434444

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alexander Lemishko
Additional Participating Persons:	Myron Billiot; FAA FSDO; Baton Rouge, LA Jon Hirsh; Piper Aircraft; Wichita, KS Mike Caldera; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.