



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Selma, AL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA20LA212
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/10/2020, 1630 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N543GS
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA32RT	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

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On June 10, 2020, about 1630 central daylight time, a Piper PA-32RT-300T, N543GS, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Selma, Alabama. The commercial pilot and pilot-rated passenger were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 business flight.

According to the fixed-based operator, the airplane was fueled with 55 gallons of fuel prior to departure from Walker County Airport – Bevill Field (JFX), Jasper, Alabama.

According to preliminary Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic control communications and radar data, the airplane departed JFX at 1543 with the intended destination of Pensacola International Airport (PNS), Pensacola, Florida. After departure, the airplane climbed and leveled off at a cruise altitude of 15,000 ft mean sea level (msl). Shortly thereafter, the pilot reported an engine "fluctuation" to the controller and requested to divert to Craig Field Airport (SEM), Selma, Alabama. The controller cleared the airplane to SEM, and the pilot indicated that the propeller was turning; however, the airplane had experienced a total loss of engine power. Soon after, while in the descent to SEM, the pilot stated that there was a "fire as well." When the airplane was about 3 miles from SEM and about 3,100 ft msl, radar and voice communications were lost.

According to an FAA inspector, the airplane impacted a field and all components of the airplane were within the vicinity of the main wreckage. The initial impact crater was about 4.5 ft deep and the debris field was about 225 ft long by 120 ft wide oriented on a 125° heading.

The airplane was recovered and will be examined.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N543GS
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA32RT 300T	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No		
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	SEM, 167 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	1635 CDT
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	4 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	31 °C / 25 °C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	10 knots / 15 knots, 220 °
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility:</b>	9 Miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.92 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	IFR
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Jasper, AL (JFX)	<b>Destination:</b>	Selma, AL (SEM)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	In-Flight
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	32.326944, -87.057222 (est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Heidi Kemner
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Kyle Cook; FAA/FSDO; Birmingham, AL Mike Childers; Lycoming Engines; Atlanta, GA Damian Galbraith; Piper Aircraft; Vero Beach, FL
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.