

Brief of Accident

Adopted 10/27/2005

ATL04LA158
File No. 18551 07/17/2004 Durham ,NC Aircraft Reg No. N177J Time (Local): 11:00 EDT

Make/Model: Pitts/S-1
Engine Make/Model: Continental / C-90
Aircraft Damage: Substantial
Number of Engines: 1
Operating Certificate(s): None
Type of Flight Operation: Personal
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	1	0	0
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: Wilson, NC
Destination: Same as Accident/Incident Location
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip

Condition of Light: Day
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:
Visibility: 9.00 SM
Wind Dir/Speed: 190 / 007 kts
Temperature (°C): 29
Precip/Obscuration: No Obscuration; No Precipitation

Pilot-in-Command Age: 56

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)
Recreational; Single-engine Land

Total All Aircraft: 356
Last 90 Days: 18
Total Make/Model: 356
Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

Instrument Ratings
None

*** Note: NTSB investigators may not have traveled in support of this investigation and used data provided by various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***

According to a witness the airplane was observed landing on runway 32. During the touchdown phase of the landing, the airplane bounced two times, followed by the pilot executing a go-around. According to the witness the airplane flew a very tight pattern circling to land again on runway 32. During the next approach to land the airplane was observed entering a "hard slip" to the left then nosed up as it was recovering from the slip, then entered a spin and collided with the ground at a slightly nose down attitude. The post accident examination of the airplane failed to disclose a mechanical malfunction or component failure.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. STALL/SPIN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows:
The pilot's failure to maintain airspeed which resulted in an inadvertent stall/spin and subsequent in-flight collision with terrain.