

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 09/13/1994

LAX94LA057  
File No. 1756                      11/26/1993                      BUCKEYE, AZ                      Aircraft Reg No. N50412                      Time (Local): 10:15 MST

Make/Model:	BELLANCA / 8KCAB	Fatal	0	Serious	0	Minor/None	1
Engine Make/Model:	LYCOMING / AEIO-360	Crew	0				
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial	Pass	0		0		0
Number of Engines:	1						
Operating Certificate(s):	None						
Type of Flight Operation:	Personal						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation						

Last Depart. Point:	GLENDALE , AZ	Condition of Light:	Day
Destination:	Local Flight	Weather Info Src:	Pilot
Airport Proximity:	Off Airport/Airstrip	Basic Weather:	Visual Conditions
		Lowest Ceiling:	None
		Visibility:	40.00 SM
		Wind Dir/Speed:	Calm
		Temperature (°C):	18
		Precip/Obscuration:	None / None

Pilot-in-Command	Age: 47	Flight Time (Hours)
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)		Total All Aircraft: 382
Private; Single-engine Land		Last 90 Days: 94
Instrument Ratings		Total Make/Model: 195
None		Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT DURING THE PREFLIGHT INSPECTION A SMALL FLECK OF PARTICULATE CONTAMINATION WAS DRAINED FROM THE LEFT TANK. BOTH TANKS WERE ABOUT ONE-HALF FULL, FOR A TOTAL LOAD OF BETWEEN 17 AND 18 GALLONS. NO OTHER DISCREPANCIES WERE NOTED AND THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTED FOR A LOCAL AREA ACROBATIC FLIGHT. AFTER A SERIES OF MANEUVERS WHICH INCLUDED SLOW AND POINT ROLLS, LOOPS, AND CUBAN EIGHTS, THE ENGINE 'COUGHED SIGNIFICANTLY,' AND THE PILOT DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE AIRPORT. WHILE EN ROUTE, THE ENGINE BEGAN TO SPATTER AND RUN CONTINUOUSLY ROUGH WITH A GRADUAL LOSS OF POWER. THE PILOT'S ATTEMPTS TO REMEDY THE SITUATION WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND A FORCED LANDING IN DESERT TERRAIN BECAME NECESSARY. THE AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED SOFT SOIL DURING THE LANDING ROLL AND NOSED OVER. RESPONDING FAA INSPECTORS REPORTED THAT THEY DID NOT FIND ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH THE AIRCRAFT OR ENGINE.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1:    LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - CONTAMINATION
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Occurrence #2:    FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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Occurrence #3:    NOSE OVER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT

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

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
A LOSS OF ENGINE POWER DUE TO FUEL SYSTEM CONTAMINATION.    A FACTOR IN THE ACCIDENT WAS THE SOFT TERRAIN IN THE LANDING AREA.