
 National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ERA14FA416		Most Critical Injury: Fatal		
		Occurrence Date: 08/31/2014		Investigated By: NTSB		
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Location/Time						
Nearest City/Place		State	Zip Code	Local Time	Time Zone	
St. Petersburg		FL	33701	1455	EDT	
Aircraft Information						
Registration Number		Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series Number		
N254AB		PIPER		PA-25-260		
Type of Aircraft: Airplane			Amateur Built Aircraft? No			
Injury Summary:		Fatal	1	Serious	Minor	None
Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No			
Narrative						
Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:						
<p>*** Note: NTSB investigators either traveled in support of this investigation or conducted a significant amount of investigative work without any travel, and used data obtained from various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On August 31, 2014, at 1455 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-25-260, N254AB, operated by Aerial Banners, Inc., was destroyed when with the pilot lost control and the airplane descended to water impact following a banner pick up at Albert Whitted Airport (SPG), St. Petersburg, Florida. The commercial pilot was fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The banner-tow flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. The flight was originating at the time of the accident.</p> <p>According to the SPG tower controller, the airplane was cleared for takeoff from runway 7. As the airplane departed runway 7, the pilot made a sharp right turn to the intersecting runway. The airplane side stepped runway 18 to the left and picked up the banner. As the airplane pitched up to climb out, the pilot made a distress call before losing control and entering a downward spiral and colliding with the water.</p> <p>According to a witness, they watched as the banner tow airplane picked up the banner. As they were attempting to read the banner, the airplane suddenly made a sharp bank to the left. The witness went on to say that the airplane was at a high angle of attack, stalled and went into a tight nose down spin towards the water.</p> <p>The airplane impacted the water and sank in approximately 15 feet of water off of the departure end of runway 18.</p> <p>Updated on Sep 16 2014 7:52AM</p>						
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO CHANGE						

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Other Aircraft Involved		
Registration Number	Aircraft Manufacturer	Model/Series Number

Accident Information	
Aircraft Damage: Substantial	Accident Occurred During: Initial climb

Crew	Name	Certificate No.	Injury
Pilot	On File	On File	Fatal
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Operator Information		
Name AERIAL BANNERS NORTH INC	Operator Designator Code	Doing Business As


Street Address	City PEMBROKE PINES	State FL	Zip Code 330232591
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-Type of Certificate(s) Held: None
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):

Operating Certificate:	Operator Certificate:
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation	
Type of Flight Operations Conducted: Banner Tow	

Flight Plan/Itinerary			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: None			
Last Departure Point	State	Airport Identifier	
Same as Accident/Incident Location		SPG	
Destination	State	Airport Identifier	
Same as Accident/Incident Location		SPG	

Weather Information			
Investigator's Source: Weather Observation Facility	Facility ID: SPG	Observation Time (Local): 1455	
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear		Ft. AGL	
Lowest Ceiling: None	Ft. AGL	Visibility: SM	Altimeter: 30.07 "Hg

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Weather Information (Continued from page 2)

Temperature: 33 °C	Dew Point: 22 °C	Wind Direction:	
Wind Speed: Kts.	Gusts: Kts.	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions	

Administration Data

Notification From	Date
FAA District Office/Coordinator	Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Eric Alleyne