



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Pahokee, FL	Accident Number:	WPR19FA093
Date & Time:	03/08/2019, 1526 EST	Registration:	N5894Y
Aircraft:	Piper PA23	Injuries:	5 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

On March 8, 2019, about 1526 eastern standard time, a Piper PA 23-250 airplane, N5894Y, impacted a lake during an emergency landing at the Palm Beach County Glades Airport (PHK), Pahokee Florida. The commercial pilot and four passengers were fatally injured, and the airplane was destroyed. The airplane was registered to L-Holding LLC, and operated by the pilot as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident and the flight was operated on an instrument flight rules flight plan. The flight originated from the Tampa International Airport (TPA), Tampa, Florida about 1420 and was destined for North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45), West Palm Beach, Florida.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported that the pilot declared an emergency to air traffic control and reported a rough running left engine. The pilot further reported that he was going to shut down the left engine and divert to PHK. The controller cleared the pilot to land; the pilot's last transmission was when he reported the airport in sight.

Witnesses reported that their attention was drawn to the airplane when they observed it in a 45° nose and left-wing low rapid descent before it impacted the water.

The airplane was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N5894Y
Model/Series:	PA23 250	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:	F45, 22 ft msl	Observation Time:	1535 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	25° C / 15° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3400 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 110°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6500 ft agl	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Tampa, FL (TPA)	Destination:	West Palm Beach, FL (F45)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	4 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	5 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	26.790278, -80.692778 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Samantha A Link
Additional Participating Persons:	Anthony Saavedra; Federal Aviation Administration; Miramar, FL Jon Hirsch; Piper Aircraft; Vero Beach, FL Troy Helgeson; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.