



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Accident Number:	ERA19FA112
Date & Time:	03/01/2019, 1141 EST	Registration:	N145AB
Aircraft:	PIPER PA25	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Banner Tow		

On March 1, 2019, about 1141 eastern standard time, a Piper PA-25-235, N145AB, was destroyed when impacted a condominium while maneuvering in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The commercial pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was being operated by Aerial Banners North, Inc. under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a local banner tow flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and no flight plan was filed for the flight that originated from North Perry Airport (HWO), Hollywood, Florida, about 1043.

The operator reported that the pilot was scheduled to fly 2 hours on his first solo banner tow flight away from the banner tow box at HWO. He was towing a 30-foot-high by 90-foot-long "medium size" company banner.

According to company personnel, after takeoff the pilot practiced pick-ups, then picked up the accident banner on the first pass about 1059. Review of company tracking data revealed that the flight proceeded due east to the beach where the pilot performed several passes near Hollywood Beach, then proceeded north. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) radar data depicted the airplane flying in a northerly direction until about 1138; then while over water south of the Commercial Boulevard Pier, the pilot initiated a right turn and flew at an altitude about 400 ft mean sea level (msl) in a southerly direction until about 1140:12, when the airplane was south of Oakland Park Boulevard.

Witnesses reported seeing the airplane turn right to a westerly or northwesterly direction and flying over land, while the FAA radar data depicted the airplane descended to about 200 ft msl. The airplane was observed to bank sharp to the left, during which time one witness observed the banner twist and separate. Another witness thought the left bank was the pilot's attempt to fly over NE 30th Street between two tall buildings. The airplane was then observed banking to the right, and impacted into the 16th and 17th stories of a 19 story condominium. The airplane then fell to the 2nd floor deck and came to rest on its left side. Witnesses in different locations described the engine sound as either "sputtering," "operating normally," or "being at a low throttle setting." A witness in one of the impacted units reported that the engine was operating at full throttle with no discrepancies.

The wreckage was recovered and retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N145AB
Model/Series:	PA25 235	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	Aerial Banners North, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FLL, 65 ft msl	Observation Time:	1153 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	27° C / 19° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 110°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3100 ft agl	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Hollywood, FL (HWO)	Destination:	Hollywood, FL (HWO)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	26.166111, -80.101111

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy W Monville
Additional Participating Persons:	Derrick D Mayberry; FAA/FSDO; Miramar, FL Christopher A George; FAA/FSDO; Miramar, FL Bob Benyo; Aerial Banners North, Inc.; Pembroke Pines, FL David Harsanyi; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.