



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Newport News, VA	Accident Number:	ERA23FA008
Date & Time:	October 6, 2022, 15:07 Local	Registration:	N97883
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

On October 6, 2022, at 1507 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 172, N97883, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident at the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport (PHF), Newport News, Virginia. The flight instructor was fatally injured, and the student pilot and the pilot rated passenger were seriously injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 instructional flight.

A review of airport surveillance video revealed that after the airplane departed runway 20, it entered a steep (nose-high) pitch attitude. The airplane began to turn left while in this nose-high attitude and reached an altitude of about 50-100 ft before it made a descending left-hand turn and impacted terrain west of the runway.

A witness, who was a flight instructor, was taxiing south on taxiway alpha when he observed the accident airplane in a “crazy” nose-high pitch attitude (about 30 degrees nose up) on takeoff. The airplane reached a height of about 200 ft above the ground, when the left wing stalled and dropped. The witness thought the instructor of the accident airplane tried to recover from the stall because the airplane’s wings leveled out momentarily before the left wing dropped again, and the airplane hit the ground on its belly. The witness described what he observed as a “power on stall.”

The airplane came to rest in a drainage ditch on a magnetic heading of about 090 degrees. All major components of the airplane were located at the accident site and there was no postimpact fire. Flight control continuity was established for all major flight control surfaces to the cockpit. The flaps were in the fully retracted position, and the elevator trim tab actuator was found in the 5-degree tab up position.

The airplane wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N97883
Model/Series:	172 P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot school (141)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHF,42 ft msl	Observation Time:	14:54 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C /10°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 270°
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Newport News, VA	Destination:	Newport News, VA

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	37.131889,-76.492972

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Read, Leah
Additional Participating Persons:	Jay Venable; FAA/FSDO; Richmond, VA J. Mike Childers; Textron Lycoming; Atlanta, GA Kurt Gibson; Textron Aviation; Lakeland, FL
Note:	