



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Winter Haven, FL	Accident Number:	ERA16LA266
Date & Time:	07/22/2016, 0930 EDT	Registration:	N87570
Aircraft:	REPUBLIC RC 3	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On July 22, 2016, about 0930 eastern daylight time, a Republic RC-3, N87570, was substantially damaged during a forced landing after takeoff from Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport (GIF), Winter Haven, Florida. The commercial pilot was fatally injured and the private pilot incurred serious injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the local personal flight. The airplane was operated under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

According to the commercial pilot, who was also the pilot flying the airplane, the takeoff was normal until about 300 feet above ground level, when the non-flying private pilot stated she smelled fuel. The engine lost power shortly thereafter and the airplane began to descend. The airplane hit some trees and the engine regained power, but the airplane then impacted terrain and came to rest.

Examination of the wreckage by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed that the airplane came to rest between a garage and fence. The right elevator was embedded into the roof of the garage. The right wing was bent back behind the fuselage and sliced by the propeller blades of the rear mounted engine. The fuselage was resting on the right side with the left wing pointing skyward. The left wing exhibited impact damage on the leading edge.

The airplane was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	REPUBLIC	Registration:	N87570
Model/Series:	RC 3 UNDESIGNAT	Aircraft Category:	Unknown
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	MURPHY JOHN B	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KGIF, 146 ft msl	Observation Time:	1253 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	28° C / 24° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Winter Haven, FL (GIF)	Destination:	Winter Haven, FL (GIF)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	28.062222, -81.753889 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Daniel P Boggs
Additional Participating Persons:	Marco A Grillo; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.