



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Conroe, TX	Accident Number:	CEN23LA081
Date & Time:	January 14, 2023, 14:25 Local	Registration:	N512P
Aircraft:	MARC JONES PITTS MODEL 12	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On January 14, 2023, about 1425 central standard time, a Pitts Model 12 airplane, N512P, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Conroe, Texas. The pilot sustained minor injuries, and the passenger sustained serious injuries. The airplane was operated as a *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the pilot, he and the passenger were conducting a local flight to practice maneuvers and landings. About 8 minutes after takeoff and 2,000 ft above ground level, the pilot noticed a master warning light on instrument panel and decided to return to the airport. The pilot stated that about 1 minute later, the engine operation “seemed like someone turned the [magnetos] off, back on, and off again; then the engine went dead.” The pilot attempted to restart the engine and was unsuccessful. Unable to reach the airport, the pilot performed a forced landing to a nearby roadway. During the landing, the airplane impacted a powerline, terrain, and came to rest inverted. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, fuselage, and empennage (see Figure 1.).



Figure 1. Accident airplane as it came to rest (Source: Federal Aviation Administration)
The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MARC JONES	Registration:	N512P
Model/Series:	PITTS MODEL 12	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	M12 AVIATION LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCXO,228 ft msl	Observation Time:	14:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	4 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C /0°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 150°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.22 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Conroe, TX	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	30.306237,-95.462724 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sauer, Aaron
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert McGee; FAA FSDO; Houston, TX
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.