

## AVIATION SHORT INVESTIGATION BULLETIN

**REPORT # AO-16-006315**

**INVESTIGATION TITLE: N8700Q ACCIDENT**  
**INVESTIGATION STATUS: COMPLETED**

### SUMMARY

The Aviation Short Investigation Bulletin covers a range of the AAID’s short investigations and highlights valuable safety lessons for pilots, operators and safety managers.

### TERMINOLOGY

To help define what the AAID investigates, the terminology for the following category of occurrences is listed.

### CATEGORY

**Accident:** an occurrence involving an aircraft where:

- a person dies or suffers serious injury
- the aircraft is destroyed, or is seriously damaged
- any property is destroyed or seriously damaged

**Serious incident:** an incident involving circumstances indicating that an accident nearly occurred (ICAO Annex 13).

**Incident:** an occurrence, other than an accident, associated with the operation of an aircraft which affects or could affect the safety of operation (ICAO Annex 13), and meet the definition of an “incident” as prescribed in the Bahamas Civil Aviation (Investigations of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations Section 2 (1), 2016.

GENERAL DETAILS			
<b>Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	<b>Investigation status:</b>	Completed
<b>Time:</b>	2020 UTC	<b>Investigation type:</b>	Accident Investigation
<b>Location:</b>	North Eleuthera	<b>Occurrence type:</b>	Aircraft Ditching
<b>State:</b>	Bahamas		
<b>Release date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	<b>Occurrence category:</b>	Accident
<b>Report status:</b>	Final	<b>Highest injury level:</b>	Minor

### AIRCRAFT DETAILS

<b>Aircraft manufacturer:</b>	Piper Aircraft Corp
<b>Aircraft model:</b>	PA-32-300
<b>Aircraft registration:</b>	N8700Q
<b>Serial number:</b>	32-7440104
<b>Type of operation:</b>	Private
<b>Sector:</b>	Piston
<b>Damage to aircraft:</b>	Major

On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016, at approximately 3:20 Eastern Standard Time (2020 UTC), a Piper PA-32-300 aircraft with registration **N8700Q** departed North Eleuthera enroute to Marsh Harbor, Abaco. The pilot was the sole occupant on board the general aviation flight.

The pilot advised that the flight was uneventful after takeoff. Approximately three (3) minutes into the flight, the pilot reported that he experienced a loss of engine power. After failure to troubleshoot, an attempt was made to return to the field. As he maneuvered to execute his approach, the pilot stated he realized that the aircraft did not have sufficient altitude to return to the North Eleuthera Airport. The pilot then made the decision to ditch the aircraft in shallow waters in an area known as ‘Pigeon Cay.’

After ditching the aircraft in some 3-4 ft. of water, the pilot vacated the aircraft and was rescued shortly by boaters in the nearby vicinity. The pilot received minor injuries and was treated at the local clinic. The aircraft sustained major damage and has since been removed and properly disposed of.