



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	LA VETA, CO	Accident Number:	FTW94FA059
Date & Time:	01/01/1994, 1224 MST	Registration:	N53049
Aircraft:	CESSNA 177RG	Injuries:	2 Serious, 2 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT ENTERED 9,380-FOOT LA VETA PASS AT 8,000 FEET MSL. HE SAID HE ENCOUNTERED TURBULENCE AND DOWNDRAFTS AS HE APPROACHED THE SUMMIT, AND THE AIRPLANE 'COULDN'T GENERATE ANY LIFT' AND STALLED. MOMENTS AFTER THE ACCIDENT, ANOTHER PILOT REPORTED OCCASIONAL MODERATE TO EXTREME TURBULENCE IN THE VICINITY.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S IMPROPER INFLIGHT DECISION TO ENTER A MOUNTAIN PASS AT AN INADEQUATE ALTITUDE, CAUSING THE AIRCRAFT'S CLIMB PERFORMANCE TO BE EXCEEDED. FACTORS WERE TURBULENCE AND DOWNDRAFTS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE, CLIMB CAPABILITY - EXCEEDED
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings

6. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	205 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N53049
Model/Series:	177RG 177RG	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	R&R AVIATION, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B6D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ALS, 7535 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ , 180°
Temperature:	-2° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BROOMFIELD, CO (BJC)	Destination:	ALAMOSA, CO (ALS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT,	Adopted Date:	11/14/1994
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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