



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	ROYAL, AR	Accident Number:	FTW95FA080
Date & Time:	01/03/1995, 1817 CST	Registration:	N101GA
Aircraft:	BEECH 65-90	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

THE PILOT OBTAINED A WEATHER BRIEFING, FILED AN IFR FLIGHT PLAN, AND TOOK OFF AT NIGHT ON A FLIGHT FROM HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, TO PUEBLO, COLORADO. ABOUT ONE MINUTE LATER, HE ADVISED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL THAT HE NEEDED TO RETURN TO HOT SPRINGS. HE THEN CONTACTED THE AIRPLANE OPERATOR AND SAID THE HEATER WAS NOT WORKING. THE OPERATOR SUGGESTED THAT HE RETURN FOR REPAIRS. THE PILOT WAS THEN HEARD TO SAY, 'OH, SHOOT!' NO FURTHER RADIO TRANSMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE FLIGHT. THE AIRPLANE CUT A 400 FOOT SWATH THROUGH TREES, AND THE WRECKAGE PATH MEASURED 940 FEET. WITH EXCEPTION OF A HEATER PROBLEM, NO PREIMPACT MECHANICAL FAILURE WAS EVIDENT.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT INADVERTENTLY ALLOWED THE AIRPLANE TO DESCEND AND COLLIDE WITH TREES, AFTER HE BECAME DIVERTED BY AN INOPERATIVE CABIN HEATER. DARKNESS WAS A RELATED FACTOR.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. CABIN HEATER - INOPERATIVE
2. (F) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (C) DESCENT - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 185 hours (Total, this make and model), 2959 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N101GA
Model/Series:	65-90 65-90	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Operator:	AIRBORNE FLYING SERVICE, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-6A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HOT, 540 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1600 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 20°
Temperature:	2°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HOT SPRINGS, AR (HOT)	Destination:	PUEBLO, CO (PUB)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Adopted Date:	02/28/1997
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 pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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