



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Location: | LAKEVIEW, OR | Accident Number: | SEA96TA046 |
| Date & Time: | 02/01/1996, 1615 PST | Registration: | N2866B |
| Aircraft: | Christen Industries A-1 | Injuries: | 1 Minor, 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Public Aircraft | | |

Analysis

The aircraft was being used on an animal control flight, and the pilot was executing a low pass over a frozen, flat, snow covered lake surface, in pursuit of a coyote. During this maneuver, the gunner's weapon jammed, and the pilot diverted his attention to the direction of the weapon's muzzle, which was pointed toward a fuel tank. Immediately thereafter, the aircraft's wheels dug in the snow covered surface, and the aircraft nosed over. An overcast existed at the time, and there was a lack of references available on the smooth, even surface of the lake to enhance the pilot's depth perception.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: failure of the pilot to maintain altitude/clearance from the terrain (snow covered, frozen lake). Factors relating to the accident were: the pilot's attention being diverted to a perceived safety hazard, and lack of visual cues for pilot perception of clearance from the lake surface.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
2. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------|
| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 38 |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Instructor Rating(s): | None |
| Flight Time: | 2232 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1856 hours (Total, this make and model), 2105 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 106 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 53 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Christen Industries | Registration: | N2866B |
| Model/Series: | A-1 A-1 | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Operator: | US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | Engine Manufacturer: | Lycoming |
| Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None | Engine Model/Series: | O-360-C1G |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Public Aircraft | | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | LKV, 4729 ft msl | Weather Information Source: | Weather Observation Facility |
| Lowest Ceiling: | Overcast / 1800 ft agl | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | 6 knots / , 340° |
| Temperature: | -4° C | Visibility | 10 Miles |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | , OR (LKV) | Destination: | |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Minor | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Latitude, Longitude: | | | |

Administrative Information

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|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | STEVEN A MCCREARY | 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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