



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	REGAN, ND	Accident Number:	CHI97LA036
Date & Time:	12/03/1996, 1440 CST	Registration:	N30255
Aircraft:	Cessna 177	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On December 3, 1996, at 1440 central standard time, a Cessna 177, N30255, sustained substantial damage during an emergency landing in a rough farm field, five miles east of Regan, North Dakota. The pilot told investigators that he was flying VFR on top and decided to descend below the clouds. When he did so, he was unable to maintain VFR and initiated an emergency landing in a rough farm field. The non-instrument rated private pilot and one passenger reported no injuries. The 14 CFR Part 91 flight encountered instrument meteorological conditions at the accident site. No flight plan was on file. The flight departed Harvey, North Dakota, about 1400, with the intended destination of Bismarck, North Dakota.

The pilot said that he called for a weather briefing the morning of the accident. He said the weather was VFR at that time. He then initiated the flight about 1400, but attained no additional weather information, prior to the flight. He said that en route to Bismarck he encountered clouds obscuring the terrain and that he was "on top" at 4,000 feet mean sea level. He said that he called Bismarck, checking for VFR conditions, but found that the airport was reporting instrument meteorological conditions. He said that he then elected to descend through a hole in the clouds. He found that visibility and the ceiling prevented him from maintaining VFR and he conducted an emergency landing in a field which he said was approximately 36 miles northeast of Bismarck.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/29/1995
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1074 hours (Total, all aircraft), 354 hours (Total, this make and model), 1008 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N30255
Model/Series:	177 177	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17701153
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/30/1996, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2050 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
Registered Owner:	CHARLES D. COFFMAN	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	CHARLES D. COFFMAN	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0.25 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HARVEY, ND (ND17)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	BISMARCK, ND (BIS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1400 CST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STEPHEN A WILSON
Additional Participating Persons:	MELVIN O CINTRON; FARGO, ND
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/ .