



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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

Analysis

The pilot obtained a weather forecast in the morning for a flight initiated in the afternoon. While en route he encountered low clouds short of his destination. He called the airport of intended landing and found that the existing weather was instrument meteorological conditions. He descended through a hole in the clouds in an attempt to locate visual instrument conditions, was unable to do so, and made an emergency landing on unsuitable terrain.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's intentional flight into adverse weather. Factors were clouds, the pilot's inadequate in-flight planning/decision making, his poor evaluation of the weather, and the encounter with unsuitable terrain for landing.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
 2. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) WEATHER EVALUATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) FLIGHT INTO ADVERSE WEATHER - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	CHARLES D. COFFMAN	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 100 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots / , 220°
Temperature:	-7° C	Visibility	0.25 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HARVEY, ND (ND17)	Destination:	BISMARCK, ND (BIS)

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STEPHEN A WILSON	Adopted Date:	08/25/1997
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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