



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	RIO GRANDE CITY, TX	Accident Number:	FTW97LA074
Date & Time:	01/02/1997, 0845 CST	Registration:	N1552D
Aircraft:	Beech C90A	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

The pilot planned to navigate south along the road for approximately 25 nautical miles to the Starr County Airport, near Rio Grande City. The pilot stated that while en route to the airport, at an estimated altitude of 1,000 feet MSL, the left engine propeller impacted guide wires and the outer portion of the right wing impacted a tower. According to the Brownsville sectional chart, the tower, which is located on the west side of the road, is 1,002 feet MSL high (519 feet AGL). The pilot reported that he 'checked [the] map to track his position along highway 755, and when he looked up, the tower was right in front, too late to take evasive action.' The pilot also reported that after the collision with the tower, he aborted the approach and proceeded to the McCallen Miller International Airport, where after extending the landing gear manually, an uneventful landing was made.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance with the tower. Factors were the low ceilings and the pilot's diverted attention to his navigation.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. OBJECT - GUY WIRE
5. OBJECT - TOWER

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	13500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9000 hours (Total, this make and model), 12500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 132 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N1552D
Model/Series:	C90A C90A	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Operator:	RAYTHEON AIRCRAFT SERVICES	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-21
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 150°
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility	4 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAN ANTONIO, TX (SAT)	Destination:	RIO GRANDE CITY, TX (67R)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	HECTOR R CASANOVA	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 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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