



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BOXBOROUGH, MA	Accident Number:	NYC98FA063
Date & Time:	02/02/1998, 0900 EST	Registration:	N79588
Aircraft:	Cessna 172K	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After departure, a witness observed the Cessna 172 at a low altitude with the nose bobbing up and down. Another witness saw the airplane in a left turn and heard a power reduction. The airplane then dove into a wooded area. A post-crash fire consumed the cockpit and wings. The investigation found no evidence of a mechanical failure or malfunction with the engine or airframe. Witnesses reported frost on the wings of airplanes in the area at the time of the accident. Examination of the outside tie down where the airplane had been secured revealed no evidence that the tops of the wings had been examined or de-iced.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The failure of the pilot to remove the frost on the wings before departure, which resulted in a stall

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - ICING CONDITIONS
 2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	66
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1800 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N79588
Model/Series:	172K 172K	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	HERBERT L. HARDY	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-F2D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BED, 133 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	-4° C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(6B6)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	MINUTE MAN (6B6)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	3	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2770 ft / 48 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): ROBERT L HANCOCK

Adopted Date: 08/27/1999

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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