



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MERRILL PASS, AK	Accident Number:	ANC94FA001
Date & Time:	10/02/1993, 1430 AKD	Registration:	N5647N
Aircraft:	MAULE M-6-235	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND WAS ATTEMPTING TO FLY THROUGH MERRILL PASS IN WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT WERE FORECAST TO BE MARGINAL. OTHER PILOTS IN THE AREA REPORTED THE PASS WAS MARGINAL TO CLOSED. THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND IN A BOX CANYON ONE VALLEY BEFORE REACHING THE PASS. THE TURN REQUIRED INTO THE BOX CANYON WAS THE SAME TURN REQUIRED TO GO THROUGH THE PASS. THE AIRPLANE CRASHED ON THE GLACIER AT THE 4000-FOOT-LEVEL, 90 DEGREES TO THE LONG AXIS OF THE BOX CANYON. THE GLACIER AND SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS WERE COVERED WITH FRESH SNOW.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND'S ATTEMPT TO FLY VFR INTO IMC CONDITIONS. A FACTOR WAS THE WHITEOUT WEATHER CONDITION.

Findings

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

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - BLIND/BOX CANYON
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - WHITEOUT
3. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1309 hours (Total, all aircraft), 242 hours (Total, this make and model), 1235 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 65 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MAULE	Registration:	N5647N
Model/Series:	M-6-235 M-6-235	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BIVIN, WILLIAM C.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-W1A5D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	20 knots / 30 knots, 140°
Temperature:	-1° C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	BETHEL, AK (BET)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	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):	GEORGE KOBELNYK	Adopted Date:	12/02/1994
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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