



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX92FA078
Date & Time:	01/02/1992, 1815 MST	Registration:	N5485N
Aircraft:	CESSNA 182R	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

AFTER LIFT-OFF, THE AIRPLANE WAS OBSERVED TO CLIMB TO AN ESTIMATED ALTITUDE OF 300-400 FT AGL BEFORE TURNING RIGHT AND DESCENDING INTO TREES. THE WITNESS STATED THAT THE HORIZON WAS OBSCURED FROM HIS LOCATION, AND THAT THE LIGHTS FROM THE CITY WERE OBSCURED BY LOW STRATUS CLOUDS AND FOG. PRIOR TO TAKEOFF THE PILOT HAD ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIVING THE CURRENT ATIS INFORMATION WHICH REPORTED SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 500 FT AND A FOG BANK NORTHWEST THROUGH EAST, VISIBILITY NORTHWEST 2 MI, VISIBILITY EAST 3 MI.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT BECAME SPATIALLY DISORIENTED AND LOST CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE AS HE TURNED AWAY FROM GROUND LIGHTS TOWARD UNLIGHTED TERRAIN. THE CLOUDS, FOG, AND DARK NIGHT CONDITION WERE FACTORS.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61, 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:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/28/1990
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1497 hours (Total, all aircraft), 624 hours (Total, this make and model), 1439 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5485N
Model/Series:	182R 182R	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18267753
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/08/1991, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	8 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2701 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-470U-18B
Registered Owner:	PEDRICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	Rated Power:	230 hp
Operator:	PEDRICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	0

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FLG, 7011 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1801 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 500 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	30°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-6° C / -7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(FLG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	PHOENIX, AZ (DVT)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1813 MST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	PULLIAM (FLG)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	7011 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	3	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6999 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	James A Wall	Report Date:	06/24/1994
Additional Participating Persons:	FAA INSPECTOR MIKE BROWN; SCOTTSDALE, AZ R.A. FOX; WICHITA, KS		
Publish Date:			
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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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).