



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX92FA078
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/02/1992, 1815 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N5485N
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 182R	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## 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

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

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	61
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	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

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N5485N
<b>Model/Series:</b>	182R 182R	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	PEDRICK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470U-18B
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Unknown	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Night/Dark
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	FLG, 7011 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 12000 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	5 knots / , 30°
<b>Temperature:</b>	-6° C	<b>Visibility</b>	7 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(FLG)	<b>Destination:</b>	PHOENIX, AZ (DVT)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	PULLIAM (FLG)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	3	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	6999 ft / 150 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): James A Wall Adopted Date: 06/24/1994

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](mailto: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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