National Transportation Safety Board
Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SALOME, AZ	**Accident Number:**	LAX92LA133
Date & Time:	03/01/1992, 1500 MST	**Registration:**	N550HZ
Aircraft:	HELIO HST-550A	**Aircraft Damage:**	Destroyed
Defining Event:		**Injuries:**	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE CERTIFICATED AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT AND A PASSENGER WERE CONDUCTING A LOW LEVEL FLIGHT OVER MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN. THE SURFACE WIND CONDITIONS WERE REPORTED TO BE FROM THE SOUTH AT OR ABOVE 20 KNOTS. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE APPROACHED THE MOUNTAIN PEAK IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION AND CLIMBED THE AIRPLANE TO AN ALTITUDE OF 150 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND TO CLEAR THE MOUNTAIN. THE AIRPLANE ENCOUNTERED DOWNDRAFT CONDITIONS ON THE LEE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. THE PILOT FAILED TO IMMEDIATELY CORRECT FOR THIS CONDITION AND THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH THE UPSLOPING MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN WHEN THE PILOT WAS EXECUTING A 180 DEGREE TURN.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S INADEQUATE IN-FLIGHT PLANNING, IMPROPER ALTITUDE, AND DELAYING THE REQUIRED REMEDIAL ACTION TO PREVENT THE COLLISION WITH THE MOUNTAIN. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE UNFAVORABLE WIND AND DOWNDRAFT CONDITIONS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings
1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
4. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) ALTITUDE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	**Age:**	25, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	05/14/1991
Occupational Pilot:		**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	1725 hours (Total, all aircraft), 72 hours (Total, this make and model), 1564 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 81 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HELIO	**Registration:**	N550HZ
Model/Series:	HST-550A HST-550A	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	**Serial Number:**	007
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/17/1991, 100 Hour	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	5100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:		**Engine Manufacturer:**	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	**Engine Model/Series:**	PT6A-27
Registered Owner:	MAYTAG, DAVID D. JR.	**Rated Power:**	680 hp
Operator:	MAYTAG, DAVID D. JR.	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	**Direction from Accident Site:**	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	**Visibility**	60 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	**Visibility (RVR):**	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	20 knots / 30 knots	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:	180°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:		**Temperature/Dew Point:**	18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PRESCOTT, AZ (PRC)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:		**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	1415 MST	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Scott R Erickson	**Report Date:**	08/26/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	WAYNE MCKINNEY; SCOTTSDALE, AZ		
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.ntsb.gov/pubdms/.		

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