



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ARCATA, CA	Accident Number:	LAX92FA160
Date & Time:	04/01/1992, 2154 PST	Registration:	N1362M
Aircraft:	CESSNA 182P	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PILOT HAD EARLIER, AT 2111, EXECUTED A MISSED APPROACH FOLLOWING AN ILS APPROACH TO THE ARCADA AIRPORT. THE WX AT THAT TIME WAS SKY PARTLY OBSCURED, 100 BROKEN, 1-1/2 MI IN FOG. HE ALSO CANCELED IFR. AT 2137 HE CALLED ARCADA RADIO AND ADVISED THEY HAD ' A COUPLE OF DEAD VOR'S, ' AND WOULD LIKE A DF STEER TO ARCADA AIRPORT. THE PILOT HAD EARLIER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE ARCADA VOR WAS OUT OF SERVICE. HE WAS PROVIDED DF SERVICE TO A POINT 3 MI SW OF THE AIRPORT, AND CLEARED FOR THE ILS RWY 32 APPROACH. NO FURTHER TRANSMISSIONS WERE RECEIVED. THE AIRPLANE HAD COLLIDED WITH A STAND OF REDWOOD TREES 4,500 FT NE OF THE AIRPORT ON AN APRX HEADING OF 097 DEG. WITNESSES STATED THAT THE AIRPLANE PASSED OVER THEIR HOMES AT A VERY LOW ALTITUDE. ONE WITNESS STATED THAT THE VISIBILITY WAS ABOUT 1/8 MI IN FOG. THE PILOT'S BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL AS TESTED AT THE TIME OF HIS HOSPITAL ADMISSION WAS 0.14 GM%.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S DESCENT BELOW DECISION HEIGHT, AND HIS ALCOHOLIC IMPAIRMENT OF EFFICIENCY AND JUDGEMENT. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: THE ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND THE DARK NIGHT LIGHT CONDITIONS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (C) DECISION HEIGHT - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) IMPAIRMENT(ALCOHOL) - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	24, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Expired	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/27/1989
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	953 hours (Total, all aircraft), 899 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N1362M
Model/Series:	182P 182P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18264298
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/12/1992, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5733 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-S
Registered Owner:	NORTHERN AVIATION	Rated Power:	230 hp
Operator:	NORTHERN AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	CNWA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ACV, 218 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2057 PST	Direction from Accident Site:	210°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Partial Obscuration / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / 12° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FORTUNA, CA (FOT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	2032 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	ARCATA-EUREKA (ACV)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	218 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	32	IFR Approach:	ILS
Runway Length/Width:	5998 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):	GEORGE E PETERSON	Report Date:	12/16/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	KIM O DAVIES; OAKLAND, CA		
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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