



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	GRAYLING, MI	Accident Number:	CHI92FA228
Date & Time:	08/01/1992, 2305 EDT	Registration:	N8183L
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172H	Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE NON-INSTRUMENT RATED PILOT INTENDED A DAYTIME CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT. THE PASSENGER ARRIVED LATE, AND THE AIRPLANE DEPARTED AFTER SUNSET. NO RECORD OF A WEATHER BRIEF WAS FOUND. TWO HOURS AFTER TAKEOFF, THE FLIGHT ENENTERED AN AREA OF THUNDERSHOWERS AND HEAVY RAIN. RESIDENTS NEAR THE CRASH SITE HEARD THE LOUD ENGINE NOISE OF AN AIRPLANE PASSING LOW OVERHEAD. THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH TREES WHILE HEADING AWAY FROM ITS DESTINATION IN A SHALLOW DESCENT, WITH 40 DEGREES RIGHT BANK.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT CONTROL.

Findings

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

Findings

1. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
3. (F) WEATHER FORECAST - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

4. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	67
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	537 hours (Total, all aircraft), 477 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N8183L
Model/Series:	172H 172H	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	SAFETY FLYING CLUB, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-300-D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TVC, 624 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 190°
Temperature:	18°C	Visibility	12 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PLYMOUTH, MI (1D2)	Destination:	MANISTIQUE, MI (ISQ)

Airport Information

Airport:	GRAYLING AAF (55D)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): J R VALLASTER Adopted Date: 06/30/1993

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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