



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BISMARCK, ND	Accident Number:	CHI91DTG01
Date & Time:	06/01/1991, 0100 CDT	Registration:	N5478K
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172P	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE NON-INSTRUMENT RATED PILOT HAD ONLY THREE HOURS OF NIGHT TIME AND DID NOT OBTAIN A PREFLIGHT WEATHER BRIEF. HE ELECTED TO TAKE OFF AT 0050 AND MAKE THE RETURN FLIGHT HOME IN ORDER TO MAKE A MILITARY RESERVE COMMITMENT. THE TEMPERATURE WAS 58 DEGREES F, DEW POINT 56 DEGREES F. THE PILOT TOLD A FRIEND AT THE AIRPORT THAT HE WAS GOING TO FOLLOW THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY. THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND THE FOLLOWING MORNING EIGHT MILES NORTHEAST OF THE AIRPORT, AND THREE QUARTERS OF A MILE NORTH OF THE INTERSTATE. A STATE TROOPER ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT REPORTED THAT FOG WAS FORMING AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT, AND THAT THE ACCIDENT SITE WAS AN AREA WHERE FOG IS VERY COMMON.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: SPATIAL DISORIENTATION. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT ARE FAILURE TO OBTAIN A PREFLIGHT WEATHER BRIEF, VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC CONDITIONS AND LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE.

Findings

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

Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (F) PREFLIGHT BRIEFING SERVICE - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

5. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	26
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	70 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 30 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5478K
Model/Series:	172P 172P	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	FLIGHT TRAINING, LTD.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-DJ2
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BIS, 1677 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 300°
Temperature:	14° C	Visibility	12 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BISMARCK, ND (BIS)	Destination:	FARGO, ND (FAR)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Leslie B Ellingson	Adopted Date:	03/09/1993
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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