



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	HILLTOWN, PA	Accident Number:	IAD99FA041A
Date & Time:	05/01/1999, 1334 EDT	Registration:	N5171G
Aircraft:	Cessna 305A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Analysis

The Cessna was in an approximate 10 degree right bank climbing turn, towing a glider. As the Cessna reached approximately 1,000 feet; the pilot (witness) of the glider being towed saw another glider, a Grob, approaching from his 11:00 position. The Grob was in an approximate 15 degree right bank descending turn. The pilot being towed believed that the Cessna and Grob were on a collision course, and he released from the tow airplane. He saw the two aircraft collide, and the Cessna spin to the ground. He did not see the Grob after impact, but saw fluttering debris. Both the Cessna and Grob were equipped with communication radios.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The inadequate lookout of the pilots-in-command of the glider and the towplane.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MIDAIR COLLISION
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT

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

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	74
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	2300 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N5171G
Model/Series:	305A 305A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	PHILADELPHIA GLIDER COUNCIL	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-11B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NXX, 362 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots / 17 knots, 50°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	7 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, PA (0PA0)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	PHILADELPHIA GLIDER COUNC (OPAP)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	7	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2600 ft / 100 ft		

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):	JIM CAIN	Adopted Date:	06/23/2000
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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