



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	VILLA GROVE, CO	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN99FA157
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/01/1999, 0825 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N4366D
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-28-181	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

An FBI pilot, along with two other special agents in separate airplanes, was receiving agency-sponsored mountain flying instruction. His instructor announced that they were going to practice box canyon turnarounds. Shortly thereafter, white smoke was seen coming from the side of the mountain. Evidence indicates the airplane struck tree tops while in a steep left descending turn in what was described as an extremely tight box canyon.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight instructor's improper inflight decision to enter a narrow blind/box canyon, and his misjudgment of the vertical and lateral clearances. A factor was the downdrafts.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

### Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - BLIND/BOX CANYON
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
3. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	57
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2858 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2581 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N4366D
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-28-181 PA-28-181	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	COLORADO SKYWAYS	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360-A4M
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	OV2, 7489 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	2 knots / , 350°
<b>Temperature:</b>	13° C	<b>Visibility</b>	0 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	COLO. SPRINGS, CO (COS)	<b>Destination:</b>	SALIDA, CO (OV2)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-Ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	Unknown
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	ARNOLD W SCOTT	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	11/02/2000
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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