



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | PARKLAND, FL                         | <b>Accident Number:</b> | MIA88FA081 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 01/02/1988, 0804 EST                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N24480     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | CESSNA 152                           | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 Fatal    |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |            |

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## Analysis

ACFT WAS SEEN DESCENDING IN A NEAR VERTICAL DIVE AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED WITH NO ROTATION ALONG THE ROLL AXIS. THE ACFT CRASHED NOSE FIRST INTO A NEWLY PLANTED CORN FIELD. POST CRASH EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT STRUCTURE, FLIGHT CONTROLS, AND ENGINE REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF PRECRASH MECHANICAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION. THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE PILOT HAD EXPERIENCED MEDICAL PROBLEMS WITH CANCER; HIS BROTHER HAD DIED FROM CANCER; HIS FATHER HAD DIED THREE MONTHS BEFORE; AND HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, WHOM HE WAS CLOSE TO, RECENTLY HAD A STROKE. THE PILOT'S WIFE INITIALLY STATED THAT SHE BELIEVED THE PILOT HAD INTENTIONALLY KILLED HIMSELF. THE PILOT WAS ON AN UNSUPERVISED SOLO BUT HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED OUT OF THE TRAFFIC PATTERN. THE ACCIDENT SITE WAS 11 MILES FROM THE AIRPORT. THE MEDICAL EXAMINER RULED THE MANNER OF DEATH AS SUICIDE.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

### Findings

1. (C) DESCENT - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) PULL-UP - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) ANXIETY/APPREHENSION - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Pilot Information

|                                  |   |                              |      |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Student   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 47   |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | None  | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | None |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None  | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | None |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 44 hours (Total, all aircraft), 42 hours (Total, this make and model), 2 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                              |      |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                       |                                      |                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                 | CESSNA                               | <b>Registration:</b>        | N24480          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                  | 152 152                              | <b>Engines:</b>             | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Operator:</b>                      | AM. AVIA. TRN. ENT., INC.            | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | LYCOMING        |
| <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None                                 | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | O-235-L2C       |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>        | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                             |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                          |                                     |                              |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual Conditions        | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Day                          |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | FXE, 14 ft msl           | <b>Weather Information Source:</b>  | Weather Observation Facility |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None / 0 ft agl          | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 5 knots / , 100°             |
| <b>Temperature:</b>                     |                          | <b>Visibility</b>                   | 12 Miles                     |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   |                          |                                     |                              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | FT. LAUDERDALE, FL (FXE) | <b>Destination:</b>                 |                              |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                             |         |                            |           |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>       | 1 Fatal | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | Destroyed |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b>  | N/A     | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | None      |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>     | N/A     | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None      |
| <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> |         |                            |           |

## Administrative Information

|                                      |  |                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b> | JEFFREY L KENNEDY  | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 05/19/1989 |
| <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:pubin@ntsb.gov">pubin@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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