



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	EDEN, UT	Accident Number:	DEN89FA001
Date & Time:	10/01/1988, 1420 MDT	Registration:	N48926
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

BEFORE TAKEOFF, THE PLT TOLD RAMP PSNL THAT HE & HIS WIFE WERE PLANNING TO TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THE BEAUTIFUL FALL COLORS. A WITNESS NEAR THE CRASH SITE OBSERVED AN ACFT (MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION OF N48926) FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT CRASHED IN A BOX CANYON AREA WHERE STEEP TERRAIN PREVAILED ON BOTH SIDES & AHEAD OF THE ACFT. ELEVATION OF THE CRASH SITE WAS ABOUT 8000 FT. DENSITY ALTITUDE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 10,400 FT. AN EXAM OF THE WRECKAGE REVEALED THE ACFT HAD CRASHED IN A STEEP NOSE DOWN ATTITUDE. NO EVIDENCE OF A PREIMPACT MECHANICAL PROBLEM WAS FOUND, EXCEPT ONE OF THE BOTTOM SPARK PLUGS CONTAINED ENOUGH LEAD DEPOSITS TO FILL THE GAP BTN THE CENTER POST (ELECTRODE) & ONE SIDE OF THE PLUG. CHORDWISE SCRAPES WERE FOUND ON THE PROP BLADES. ALSO, A 3 INCH LIMB WAS FOUND AT THE CRASH SITE WHICH HAD BEEN SLICED.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - BLIND/BOX CANYON
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
4. (F) IGNITION SYSTEM, SPARK PLUG - FOULED
5. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

9. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	29, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/03/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	61 hours (Total, all aircraft), 61 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N48926
Model/Series:	152 152	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	15281053
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/12/1988, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1670 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	46 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5402 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
Registered Owner:	WASATCH WESTERN ENTERPRISES	Rated Power:	110 hp
Operator:	WASATCH WESTERN ENTERPRISES	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	DPOA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	21 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	OGDEN, UT (OGD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1405 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	VERLIN B TRANTER	Report Date:	01/08/1990
Additional Participating Persons:	TERESA O'LEARY; WICHITA, KS		
Publish Date:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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