



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	HARRISON, NY	Accident Number:	NYC89FA056
Date & Time:	12/24/1988, 1045 EST	Registration:	N555ST
Aircraft:	BEECH A36	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PLT WAS CLRD FOR AN IFR DEPARTURE FROM RWY 16 IN INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS (IMC). HIS DEPARTURE CLNC WAS TO CLIMB ON RWY HEADING TO 800 FT, THEN TURN RIGHT TO A HEADING OF 320 DEG. WHEN THE ACFT TOOK OFF, TOWER PSNL DID NOT HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH THE ACFT, & ASKED THE PLT TWICE, IF THE ACFT WAS AIRBORNE. AFTER THE 2ND INQUIRY, THE PLT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS AIRBORNE; HE WAS THEN INSTRUCTED TO CHANGE TO DEPARTURE FREQ. THE PLT ACKNOWLEDGED THE FREQ CHANGE. THEN, ABOUT 35 SEC LATER, AN ELT SIGNAL WAS HEARD. A SEARCH WAS INITIATED & THE ACFT WAS FOUND ABOUT 1/2 MI SOUTH OF THE TOWER. WITNESSES, WHO HEARD THE ACFT, RPRTD THAT AFTER TAKEOFF, THE ACFT APPEARED TO ENTER A CIRCLING MANEUVER AT LOW ALT, THEN CRASHED. NO PREIMPACT MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WERE FOUND WITH THE ACFT. WX AT THE TIME OF THE ACDNT WAS IN PART: INDEFINITE CEILING, 100 FT OBSCURATION, VIS 1/2 MI WITH FOG, WIND FROM 110 DEG AT 10 KTS.

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: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
4. (C) CLIMB - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/22/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	787 hours (Total, all aircraft), 667 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N555ST
Model/Series:	A36 A36	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	E1157
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/25/1988, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1362 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-BA
Registered Owner:	IRA SCHECHTER	Rated Power:	285 hp
Operator:	IRA SCHECHTER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	IRAL	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HPN, 439 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	114 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1050 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	110°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	2° C / 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	MONTPELIER, VT (MPV)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1045 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	WESTCHESTER COUNTY (HPN)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	439 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	16	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6548 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ALAN J YURMAN	Report Date:	01/16/1990
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 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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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).