



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	SPECULATOR, NY	Accident Number:	NYC89LA060
Date & Time:	01/01/1989, 1800 EST	Registration:	N1432D
Aircraft:	CESSNA 170A	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH TREES ABOUT 20 MILES NORTH OF SPECULATOR, NEW YORK AND WAS DEMOLISHED. WEATHER REPORTED AT THE TIME OF DEPARTURE WAS CLEAR SKIES. HOWEVER, AS THE FLIGHT APPROACHED IT'S DESTINATION, WEATHER BEGAN TO DETERIORATE AND THE PILOT DEVERTED TO GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK. DURING DESCENT IN DARKNESS, AIRCRAFT COLLIDED WITH TREES.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: INACCURATE INFLIGHT PLANNING AND DECISIONS BY THE PILOT WHO INADVERTENTLY FLEW HIS AIRCRAFT FROM VFR INTO INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS WHILE MAKING A DESCENT AT NIGHT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
3. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	244 hours (Total, all aircraft), 41 hours (Total, this make and model), 225 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N1432D
Model/Series:	170A 170A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DOUGLAS KING	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-300
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 3000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Temperature:	-3 °C	Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TROY, NY (5B7)	Destination:	TUPPER LAKE, NY

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CHAUNCEY D TWINE	Adopted Date:	07/11/1990
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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