



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WHT SULPHUR SPR, WV	Accident Number:	ATL86FA239
Date & Time:	09/01/1986, 2115 EDT	Registration:	N4782F
Aircraft:	CESSNA P206-B	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Analysis

AFTER COMPLETING THE REVENUE PRODUCING PORTION OF THIS TRIP THE COMPANY PRESIDENT CALLED HIS COMPANY OPERATIONS AND TOLD HIS SECRETARY TO SEND EVERYONE HOME SINCE IT WAS A HOLIDAY. HE WAS GOING TO RETURN THE ACFT TO ITS HOME BASE HIMSELF. THE PLT DEPARTED VFR, AIR FILED AND FLEW AN IFR FLT PLAN TO THE FINAL APCH FIX TO THE CLOSEST ARPT WITH AN INSTRUMENT APCH, CANCELLED THE IFR FLT PLAN AND HEADED TOWARD THE HOME ARPT VFR. FOG AND LOW CEILINGS WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME. THE ARPT WAS EQUIPPED WITH RWY LIGHTS BUT DID NOT HAVE STROBES ON EITHER END, IT WAS LOCATED IN A VALLEY. AN ACFT WAS OBSERVED EAST OF THE APT LATER IN THE NIGHT. IT HAD ALREADY PASSED THE ARPT AND WAS IN A TURN WHEN LAST OBSERVED. AN ALNOT WAS ISSUED DURING THE NIGHT FOR THE MISSING ACFT. IT WAS DISCOVERED THE NEXT DAY ABOUT ONE-HALF MILE WEST AND NORTH OF THE ARPT, ON THE SOUTH-WEST SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
4. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
6. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
8. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (C) SELF-INDUCED PRESSURE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

10. OBJECT - TREE(S)

- 11. MANEUVER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 12. SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 13. (C) MISSED APPROACH - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

- 14. TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	41
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	10719 hours (Total, all aircraft), 44 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4782F
Model/Series:	P206-B P206-B	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	GREENBRIER AIRLINES INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-KCA
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LWB, 2303 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 300 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	14° C	Visibility	1 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DAYTON, OH (DAY)	Destination:	(SSU)

Airport Information

Airport:	WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS (SSU)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CHARLES T FOUTS	Adopted Date:	03/10/1988
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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