



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	EDGEWOOD, NM	Accident Number:	DEN85FA055
Date & Time:	01/01/1985, 1200 MST	Registration:	N5069Q
Aircraft:	CESSNA 310N	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PVT RATED PILOT DID NOT HOLD A MULTIENGINE OR INSTRUMENT RATING. THE PILOT AND PASSENGER WERE RETURNING FROM VACATION. A WITNESS NEAR THE ACCIDENT SITE STATED THAT SHE SAW THE AIRCRAFT DESCEND OUT OF A LOW OVER LAST AT A VERY STEEP NOSE DOWN ANGLE. THE AIRCRAFT BEGAN TO CLIMB BUT THEN PITCHED DOWN AND SPUN TO THE GND. EXAMINATION OF THE AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE REVEALED THAT LEFT AND RIGHT HORIZONTAL STABILIZER, THE ELEVATORS AND THE RUDDER HAD SEPERATED IN-FLIGHT. EXAMINATION OF THE FAILED COMPONENTS REVEALED EVIDENCE THAT WAS INDICATIVE OF OVERSTRESS DUE TO AERODYNAMIC OVERLOAD.

Probable Cause and Findings

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: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT BRIEFING SERVICE - DISREGARDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
7. LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Findings

10. (C) AIRSPEED - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
11. (C) DESIGN STRESS LIMITS OF AIRCRAFT - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
12. HORIZONTAL STABILIZER ATTACHMENT - OVERLOAD
13. HORIZONTAL STABILIZER SURFACE - SEPARATION
14. FLIGHT CONTROL,ELEVATOR - SEPARATION

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

Findings

15. TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
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:	01/20/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3087 hours (Total, all aircraft), 23 hours (Total, this make and model), 170 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 139 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5069Q
Model/Series:	310N 310N	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	310N169
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/01/1984, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	30 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3288 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	ID-470-VO
Registered Owner:	OREN RONALD ALT	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	OREN RONALD ALT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	4MY, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1145 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 800 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-1° C / -1° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LAKE HAVASU CIT, AZ (LN4)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	GREELEY, CO (GXY)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GREGORY A FEITH	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	DORVIN HAGEN; ALBUQUERQUE, NM BILL ROSS; WICHITA, KS BOYLE SCOTT; BROOMFIELD, CO		
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](#).