



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	MANHATTAN, MT	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN85FTI01
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/03/1985, 0500 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N13954
<b>Aircraft:</b>	POLLIWAGEN 2 PLACE	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED IN AN OPEN FLT SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF AND WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE. THERE WERE NO WITNESSES TO THE ACCIDENT. THE PLT REPORTEDLY STATED HE NEEDED TO DEPART MANHATTAN BY 0500 MST TO ARRIVE IN HELENA BEFORE 0600 MST WHEN THE ATC TWR OPENED AS HIS ACFT WAS NOT RADIO EQUIPPED. THE WRECKAGE WAS DISCOVERED AT 1430 MST BY ANOTHER ACFT. THE PRIVATE AIRSTRIP AT MANHATTAN WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH ANY RWY LIGHTING. INSPECTION OF THE ACFT AND ENG DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY MECHANICAL FAILURE/MALFUNCTION.

## Probable Cause

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

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	28
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 51 hours (Total, this make and model), 400 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	POLLIWAGEN	Registration:	N13954
Model/Series:	2 PLACE 2 PLACE	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	JAY MOLENDYK	Engine Manufacturer:	REVMASTER
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	2100D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BZN, 4458 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 150°
Temperature:	-13° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, MT	Destination:	HELENA, MT (HLN)

## Airport Information

Airport:		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:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:			

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	KENNETH E MCNEES	Adopted 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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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.