



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	WOODSIDE, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX85FA131
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	02/01/1985, 0000 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N8345Y
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-28-161	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

THE PLT DEPARTED SAN CARLOS FOR A 12 NM X-COUNTRY TO HALF MOON BAY, CA, WITH A RETURN LEG TO SAN CARLOS. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT THE FLT ARRIVED AT HALF MOON BAY. THE ACFT CRASHED IN REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN APPROX 4 NM WEST OF THE WOODSIDE VOR WHICH IS LOCATED SOUTH OF THE SAN CARLOS ARPT. WITNESSES IN THE AREA STATED THAT THE TERRAIN WAS OBSCURED BY LOW CLOUDS AND RAIN ON THE EVENING OF THE ACCIDENT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	22, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/11/1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	104 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model), 25 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N8345Y
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-28-161 PA-28-161	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal; Utility	<b>Serial Number:</b>	28-8116166
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	01/15/1985, 100 Hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2325 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	15 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1911 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-D36
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ERIC F. BURTIS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	160 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	GOLDEN GATE PIPER	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAN CARLOS, CA (SQL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	SAN CARLOS, CA (SQL)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1630 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	AUDREY M SCHUTTE	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	T R PROVEN; SAN FRANCISCO, CA		
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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@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> .		

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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](#).