



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	WHITEFIELD, NH	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC85FA060
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	02/01/1985, 2025 EST	<b>Registration:</b>	N27522
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-31-350	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	4 Fatal, 1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

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## Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED AFTER EXECUTING A MISSED APPROACH AT WHITEFIELD DURING IMC WX. THE ACFT WAS SEEN AT 300-400 FT AGL DURING SOME PART OF THE MANEUVERING NEAR THE ARPT. THE ACFT SEEMED TO BE HEADING FOR THE ARPT WHEN LAST SEEN BY GROUND OBSERVERS. THE ONLY INDICATION OF TROUBLE WAS THE LOW ALT. OF FLT. THE ACFT CRASHED AT THE 2800 FT LEVEL OF TWIN MT ON A HDG OF 120 DEG AT 2035 HRS. IT WAS LAST SEEN ABOUT 2015 HOURS. NO FUEL WAS FOUND IN THE ENG FUEL DIVIDERS OR FUEL LINES. THE INBOARD TANKS WERE MORE THAN HALF FULL OF FUEL. NORMAL OPERATION CALLS FOR TAKEOFF, CLIMB & DESCENT ON THE INBOARD TANKS. THE OUTBOARD TANKS ARE USED FOR NON-MANEUVERING FLT DURING CRUISE.

## 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: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: MISSED APPROACH (IFR)

### Findings

1. (F) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

### Findings

5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	<b>Age:</b>	37, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Unknown Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/05/1984
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N27522
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	317852040
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	9
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	01/15/1985, Continuous Airworthiness	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	7000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	48 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1900 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	LIO-540-52BD
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	AIR TRENDS, INC.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	350 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	LADCO, INC.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2025	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 2000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BURLINGTON, VT (BTV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	WHITEFIELD, NH (HIE)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1959 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class B

## Airport Information

Airport:	WHITEFIELD (HIE)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1074 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow--dry
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	ADF/NDB
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	MICHAEL T KUZENKO	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	E JOHNSON; PORTLAND, ME		
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: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> .		

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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](#).