



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	GARFIELD, CO	Accident Number:	DEN85LA123
Date & Time:	05/01/1985, 0725 MDT	Registration:	N737DH
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH TERRAIN ON THE EAST SIDE OF MONARCH PASS NEAR GARFIELD, CO. THE THREE OCCUPANTS, ALL PILOTS, WERE NOT INJURED. THE ACFT DEPARTED SALIDA, CO, LOCATED APRX 20 MILES EAST OF THE PASS. THE PLT STATED THAT THE ACFT WOULD NOT CLIMB ABOVE 10300 FT. THE ELEVATION OF THE PASS IS 11312 FT. DURING A 180 DEGREE TURN TO REVERSE COURSE, THE ACFT IMPACTED AND SETTLED INTO TREES.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
2. WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
3. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE, CLIMB CAPABILITY - DETERIORATED
5. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. REMEDIAL ACTION - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	22, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/11/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	73 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Total, this make and model), 36 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N737DH
Model/Series:	172 172	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17269334
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/15/1985, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	20 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	SHIELDS AVIATION	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	SHIELDS AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SALIDA, CO (QV2)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	GUNNISON, CO (GUC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0720 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	FRED R WINNINGHAM	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).