



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	ROCK SPRINGS, WY	Accident Number:	DEN85LTM05
Date & Time:	08/01/1985, 1520 MDT	Registration:	N37438
Aircraft:	INTERSTATE S-1A	Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

WHILE ON A X-COUNTRY FLT, THE ACFT ENCOUNTERED TURBULENCE & DOWNDRAFTS. THE PLT STATED THAT AT 1ST, HE WAS NOT CONCERNED, BUT THEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE ACFT MAY IMPACT THE GROUND. THE ACFT HAD LIMITED POWER (75 HP) & THE TERRAIN ELEVATION IN THAT AREA WAS APRX 7000 FT MSL. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT DESCENDED INTO THE GROUND & FLIPPED OVER AFTER IMPACT.

Probable Cause

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) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
6. DESCENT - NOT CORRECTED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	28
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	553 hours (Total, all aircraft), 553 hours (Total, this make and model), 553 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 91 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	INTERSTATE	Registration:	N37438
Model/Series:	S-1A S-1A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	THOMAS H. HELTON	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	A-75
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RKS, 6737 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	20 knots / 24 knots, 220°
Temperature:	29° C	Visibility	80 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HARFORD, WY	Destination:	ROCK SPRINGS, WY (RKS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	MICHAEL L STOCKHILL	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 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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