



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	HESEL, MI	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI84LA323
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/01/1984, 1915 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N94955
<b>Aircraft:</b>	FAIRCHILD BC12-D	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

ACFT DEPARTED IN VFR CONDITIONS FOR SHORT X-COUNTRY FLT. NO WEATHER BRIEFING WAS OBTAINED. ON INITIAL ENCOUNTER WITH DETERIORATING CEILING AND VISIBILITY CONDITIONS, PLT REDUCED ALTITUDE IN ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN GROUND REFERENCE. COURSE REVERSAL NOT INITIATED UNTIL GROUND REFERENCE LOST. PILOT CITED DISORIENTATION IN TURN AND STALL AS CAUSE OF LOSS OF CONTROL. WX REPORTED AT PELLSTON, MI, (30 MI S), WAS 3 MI VISIBILITY, 800 FT THIN BKN, 4000 FT OVC.

## 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 ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) PREFLIGHT BRIEFING SERVICE - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
7. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) LACK OF TOTAL INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

### Findings

9. (C) AIRSPEED(VS) - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
10. (F) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
11. (C) STALL/SPIN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	62, 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>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Expired	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	10/23/1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	FAIRCHILD	<b>Registration:</b>	N94955
<b>Model/Series:</b>	BC12-D BC12-D	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	9355
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	06/06/1984, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1775 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-200-A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	FREDERICK F. BAKER	<b>Rated Power:</b>	100 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	FREDERICK F. BAKER	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PLN, 720 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1900 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	190°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19° C / 19° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAULT ST. MARIE, MI (CIU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ST.IGNACE, MI (83D)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1855 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	EDWARD J MC AVOY	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	J TEGAN; GRAND RAPIDS, MI		
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](#).