



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FORT LUPTON, CO	Accident Number:	DEN84MA247
Date & Time:	08/01/1984, 1635 MDT	Registration:	N6231G
Aircraft:	CESSNA 421C	Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Analysis

DURING A PREFLT WX BRIEFING, THE PLT WAS ADVISED OF THUNDERSTORMS & INTENSE RAIN SHOWERS ON THE ROUTE OF FLT. HOWEVER, HE FILED AN IFR FLT PLAN & TOOK OFF. DURING FLT, THE ATC CONTROLLER ADVISED THE PLT OF A LEVEL 6 CELL AHEAD & NOTED THAT HE HAD NO REPORT ON ITS TOP. THE PLT REPORTED THAT HE WAS 'NOT SHOWING ANYTHING' ON HIS RADAR. ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO DEVIATE. APRX 20 MIN LATER, THE PLT REPORTED THE ACFT WAS ENCOUNTERING ICING CONDITIONS & WAS LOSING ALT. AFTER ANOTHER 1 MIN & 38 SEC, HE REPORTED 'WE'RE GOING IN.' SUBSEQUENTLY, AN IN-FLT BREAKUP OCCURRED. THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND SCATTERED OVER A 1/2 MI AREA. AN EXAM REVEALED THAT THE OUTBOARD WING PANELS HAD FAILED IN FLT. WITNESSES REPORTED SEEING EITHER SMOKE OR FIRE IN FLT BEFORE THE ACFT CRASHED. EVIDENCE OF AN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE WAS FOUND ON THE OUTBOARD PORTION OF THE RIGHT WING. HOWEVER, THE PLT HAD NOT MENTIONED ANY ENCOUNTER WITH LIGHTNING ON THIS FLT. NO EVIDENCE OF METAL FATIGUE WAS FOUND.

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) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - ICING CONDITIONS
6. (C) WING - ICE

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

7. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

- 9. (C) DESIGN STRESS LIMITS OF AIRCRAFT - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 10. WING - OVERLOAD
- 11. FUEL SYSTEM,TANK - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #4: FIRE/EXPLOSION
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Occurrence #5: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N6231G
Model/Series:	421C 421C	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	BRISTER, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-L
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DEN, 5333 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 160°
Temperature:	22° C	Visibility	8 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	AMARILLO, TX (AMA)	Destination:	CASPER, WY (CPR)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight and On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	In-Flight

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	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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