



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BUCKEYE, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX83FA260
Date & Time:	06/01/1983, 0200 MST	Registration:	N8926N
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32 300C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH A UTILITY POLE ABOUT 36 FT AGL LESS THAN A MILE NORTH OF A PRIVATE DIRT AIRSTRIP. THE ACFT HAD DEPARTED SCOTTSDALE MUNICIPAL ARPT AT ABOUT 0045. THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT ABOUT 0200 APROXIMATELY 4 MILES WEST OF BUCKEYE, AZ. A WITNESS STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN WITH THE TWO OCCUPANTS OF THE ACFT WHEN THEY WERE DRINKING WITH HIM IN A LOCAL BAR. THE PLT HAD INVITED HIM AND THE GIRL TO FLY AND THE WITNESS DECLINED BUT THE 21 YEAR OLD FEMALE ACCEPTED. ANOTHER WITNESS SAW THEM DEPART THE ARPT AND SAID THE DEPARTURE WAS ABNORMAL WITH THE ACFT ALMOST COLLIDING INTO PARKED ACFT AND TAXIING 1500 FT ON THE RWY BEFORE ADDING FULL POWER TO TAKEOFF. BOTH OCCUPANTS WERE FOUND AFTER THE ACCIDENT WITH THEIR SEATBELTS UNFASTENED. THE ACFT WRECKAGE WAS STREWN ALONG A PATH 152 FT LONG ON A HEADING OF 024 DEGREES. BLOOD SUBMITTED FOR A TOXICOLOGICAL EXAMINATION FROM THE PLT AND PASSENGER REVEALED A BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL OF 0.15 PERCENT AND 0.07 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY. A 6 PACK OF BEER WAS FOUND NEAR THE ACFT WITH 5 OF THE CANS OPENED.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
2. (F) OBJECT - UTILITY POLE
3. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) IMPAIRMENT(ALCOHOL) - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	41, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/16/1982
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8926N
Model/Series:	PA-32 300C PA-32 300C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	32-40723
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/09/1983, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	20 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3306 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-K1A5
Registered Owner:	NELSON ROYCE NOFSINGER	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	NELSON ROYCE NOFSINGER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Bright
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHX, 1132 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	43 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0145 PDT	Direction from Accident Site:	80°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	35 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25° C / 4° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SCOTTSDALE, AZ (SDL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0045 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	PRIVATE STRIP	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	860 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2600 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ALFRED W DICKINSON	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 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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