



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	LIVERMORE, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX83FA314
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/01/1983, 0715 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N9945U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AA-5A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH RISING TERRAIN DURING A CROSS-COUNTRY IN IMC WEATHER. NO FLT PLAN WAS FILED FOR THE FLT. NO WEATHER BRIEFING WAS OBTAINED BY THE PILOT BEFORE TAKEOFF. THE DISTANCE TO BE FLOWN WAS 72 MILES AND THE PILOT FLEW THIS ROUTE ABOUT 3 TIMES A WEEK. THE FLT GOT WITHIN 5 MILES OF DESTINATION BEFORE COLLIDING WITH THE TERRAIN AT 1200 FT MSL. THE MOUNTAIN TOPS IN THE AREA GO AS HIGH AS 2500 FT MSL. THE PILOT WAS FLYING UP A CANYON IN LOW OVERCAST WEATHER CONDITIONS.

## 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 BRIEFING SERVICE - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
5. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	58, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Expired	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	06/12/1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	455 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN	<b>Registration:</b>	N9945U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AA-5A AA-5A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	0345
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	12/10/1982, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	68 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1780 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-E2G
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	IRVING M. WEISS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	150 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	IRVING M. WEISS	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LVK, 397 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0800 PDT	Direction from Accident Site:	20°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FAIR OAKS, CA (011)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LIVERMORE, CA (LVK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0615 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	M. W FUNK II	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@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](#).