



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MARSHBURG, PA	Accident Number:	NYC84FGM01
Date & Time:	11/01/1983, 1920 EST	Registration:	N8163P
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-28-161	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

AFTER REFUELING AT ITHACA, NY, THE PLTS OF TWO PIPER PA-28 ACFT DEPARTED AS A FLT OF TWO. THEY HAD PLANNED TO CONTINUE THEIR FLT BACK TO CINCINNATI, OH WITH ANOTHER EN ROUTE STOP AT COLUMBUS, OH. THE NON-INSTRUMENT RATED PLT OF N8163P WAS FOLLOWING THE LEAD ACFT, N6888W. AFTER CHECKING THE WX & OBSERVING LIGHTNING AHEAD, THE FLT LEADER RADIOED THAT HE WAS TURNING BACK TO BRADFORE, PA TO LAND. AT THIS TIME (1915 EST) IT WAS DARK & THE ACFT WERE AT ABOUT 3000 TO 3300 FT MSL. THE #2 PLT TRIED TO KEEP THE LEAD ACFT IN SIGHT, DURING THE TURN, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. WHILE SEARCHING FOR THE LEAD PLANE, THE #2 PLT BECAME DISORIENTED & LOST CONTROL OF HIS ACFT. DURING THE ATTEMPTED RECOVERY, THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH TREES ON THE CREST OF A HILL AT APRX 2240 FT MSL. THE ACFT WAS DESTROYED, BUT THE 2 OCCUPANTS OF THAT ACFT RECEIVED ONLY MINOR INJURIES. THEY SPENT THE NIGHT IN THE FOREST.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
3. INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LACK OF TOTAL INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN
8. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	18, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/15/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	117 hours (Total, all aircraft), 37 hours (Total, this make and model), 57 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8163P
Model/Series:	PA-28-161 PA-28-161	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28801627
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/02/1983, Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2325 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	68 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1593 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-D3G
Registered Owner:	PIPER 161 INC.	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	PIPER 161 INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BFD, 2143 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1950 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	125°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 4500 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8° C / 7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ITECAH, NY (ITH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	COLUMBUS, OH (CMH)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEROME C OSTRONIC	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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).