



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	COTTON, MN	Accident Number:	CHI81LA106
Date & Time:	08/01/1981, 0615 CDT	Registration:	N4988E
Aircraft:	CESSNA 180	Injuries:	4 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

WHILE ENROUTE IN THE COMPANY OF ANOTHER AIRCRAFT, CLOUDS WERE ENCOUNTERED. THE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED VFR INTO IMC CONDITIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTURE FROM CONTROLLED FLIGHT OCCURRED AND ALTITUDE WAS NOT MAINTAINED. THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED TREES AND THE TERRAIN IN A REMOTE AREA. THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED ON AUGUST 1, 1981. THE AIRCRAFT WAS LOCATED ON NOVEMBER 5, 1990.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE AND AIRCRAFT CONTROL AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN

Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
 2. VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN

Findings

4. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. OBJECT - TREE(S)
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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	40
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	207 hours (Total, all aircraft), 63 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4988E
Model/Series:	180 180	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	IRVIN W. GRIES	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-K
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DLH, 1430 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 400 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 260°
Temperature:	-18°C	Visibility	2 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAND LAKE, MN (NONE)	Destination:	OSHKOSH, WI (OSH)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): STEPHEN A WILSON

Adopted Date: 11/06/2001

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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