



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Rialto, CA	Accident Number:	LAX01FA134
Date & Time:	04/01/2001, 0023 PST	Registration:	N739WE
Aircraft:	Cessna 172N	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

A flight school Cessna 172N was destroyed during a departure collision with communication wires and terrain at Rialto, California, about 0023 hours. The accident flight was returning to Hawthorne, California. The pilot had obtained a standard weather briefing at 2319, for the return flight. The pilot was advised of airmets for IFR ceiling and visibilities for his route of flight. The airplane had been the subject of an Federal Aviation Administration ALNOT, issued at 2210, for failure to cancel an instrument flight plan with Southern California Tracon from Hawthorne to Rialto, an uncontrolled airport. The pilot had obtained an FAA preflight weather briefing at 1551, for the flight to Rialto. According to the instrument flight plan information, the estimated time of arrival at Rialto had been 1845. Subsequently, the airplane was located at the Rialto airport parking ramp by county sheriff personnel. The ALNOT was canceled at 2240. The operator stated that the pilot and passenger had flown to Rialto to visit with friends and were to return to Hawthorne. The pilot was a flight instructor for the operator and was rated in airplane single engine land and instrument. They reported that he had accrued 650 total flight hours. Radar data was obtained from Southern California Tracon and a plot was generated by a private vendor for Cessna Aircraft Company. It shows the airplane circling back over the airport and heading northwest. The highest altitude before coverage is lost is 1,700 feet mean sea level.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's intentional visual flight into instrument meteorological conditions. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's improper weather evaluation and lack of total experience.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
 2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
 3. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

5. OBJECT - UTILITY POLE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	22
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	650 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N739WE
Model/Series:	172N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Security Aviation	Engine Manufacturer:	Avco Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-H2AD
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ONT, 943 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 240°
Temperature:	13° C	Visibility	2.5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Rialto, CA (L67)	Destination:	Hawthorne, CA (HHR)

Airport Information

Airport:	Rialto Municipal (L67)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	24	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4500 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): GEORGE E PETERSON Adopted Date: 04/29/2003

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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