



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Zephyrhills, FL	Accident Number:	ATL02FA162
Date & Time:	09/01/2002, 0635 EDT	Registration:	N81189
Aircraft:	American General Aircraft AA-5B	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Witnesses near the accident site reported they heard an airplane flying low over the neighborhood prior to the approximate time of the accident. Shortly after hearing the low flying airplane, an explosion was heard. Witnesses discovered a nearby home engulfed in flames, and confirmed that a small airplane had collided with the home. Witnesses reported the weather conditions were foggy and very dark at the time of the accident. Lakeland Regional Airport, located 16 nautical miles southeast of Zephyrhills Airport, 0650 weather observation, reported winds calm, sky conditions scattered at 200 feet above ground level (AGL), visibility 1 statute mile, mist, temperature 25 celsius, dewpoint 25 celsius, and the altimeter setting was 30.02. The Vandenberg Airport, weather observation located 16 nautical miles southwest of Zephyrhills Airport, reported at 0552, winds 050 degrees and 5 knots, overcast sky at 500 feet AGL, visibility 1.5 statute miles, with mist, temperature 25 Celsius, and dewpoint 25 Celsius. There was no record of the pilot receiving a weather briefing before departure.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilots continued visual flight into instrument conditions (fog), and subsequent collision with a tree and a residence.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

4. OBJECT - RESIDENCE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	185 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	American General Aircraft	Registration:	N81189
Model/Series:	AA-5B	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	James Rex	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
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:	LAL, 142 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	25° C	Visibility	1 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ZEPHYRHILLS, FL (ZPH)	Destination:	ZEPHYRHILLS, FL (ZPH)

Airport Information

Airport:	ZEPHYRHILLS MUNI (ZPH)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	18	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Length/Width:	5067 ft / 150 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:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:	28.228056, -82.155833		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Eric H Alleyne

Adopted Date: 11/25/2003

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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