



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LAWRENCEVILLE, GA	Accident Number:	ATL82FA261
Date & Time:	09/01/1982, 2020 EDT	Registration:	N3247A
Aircraft:	CESSNA 170B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

DURING THE RETURN FLT TO STONE MOUNTAIN ARPT, THE PLT CONTACTED APPROACH CONTROL & REQUESTED VECTORS TO THE GWINNETT COUNTY ARPT AT LAWRENCEVILLE, GA. THE PLT REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN GOING AROUND THUNDERSTORMS & IT WAS TURNING DARK. SEVERAL MINUTES LATER THE PLT ASKED HOW TO TURN ON THE RWY LIGHTS & STATED HE HAD THE ROTATING BEACON IN SIGHT. A CFI AT THE ARPT OBSERVED THE PLANE FLY OVER THE ARPT AT 300 TO 400 FT GENERALLY ALIGNED WITH RWY 7. THE RWY LIGHTS WERE OUT DUE TO THE MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER BEING TRIPPED BY LIGHTNING. THE ACFT WAS THEN OBSERVED ENTERING A WINGS LEVEL, STEEP DESCENT WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL THE ACFT WAS OBSCURED FROM VIEW BY RAIN & FOG. THE WRECKAGE WAS LOCATED ABOUT 1/4 MI EAST OF THE DEPARTURE END OF RWY 7. THE FLAP ACTUATOR WAS IN THE MECHANICAL POSITION CORRESPONDING TO A 40 DEG FLAP SETTING.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HAZE/SMOKE
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
5. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

6. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY EDGE LIGHTS - NOT OPERATING
7. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/02/1980
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1047 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N3247A
Model/Series:	170B 170B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	25891
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	930 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-300-A
Registered Owner:	FRANKLIN A. BUCHANAN JR.	Rated Power:	145 hp
Operator:	FRANKLIN A. BUCHANAN JR.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PDK, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1850	Direction from Accident Site:	250°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	2 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	78° C / 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	STONE MOUNTAIN, GA (00A)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	STONE MOUNTAIN, GA (00A)	Type of Clearance:	
Departure Time:	1845	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	GWINETT COUNTY (17A)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	7	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4000 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Report Date:	09/01/1983
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 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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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](#).