



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	Garden City, KS	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI03FA003
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10/02/2002, 0658 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N3279Z
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-18A	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

The airplane, piloted by a non-instrument rated private pilot, was found destroyed about 2.5 nautical miles southwest of the departure airport. Night instrument meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. Flight control continuity was confirmed and torsional signatures on the propeller blades were noted.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The inadequate preflight planning/preparation and visual flight rules flight into instrument meteorological conditions by the pilot. The clouds, mist, and night conditions were contributing factors.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
  2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
  4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
  5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

6. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3279Z
Model/Series:	PA-18A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Daniel A. Wiltz	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GCK, 1042 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 200 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	18 knots / 23 knots, 20°
Temperature:	11 °C	Visibility	1 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GARDEN CITY, KS (GCK)	Destination:	Baton Rouge, LA (PVT)

## Airport Information

Airport:	GARDEN CITY REGIONAL (GCK)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt; Concrete
Runway Used:	35	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	7300 ft / 100 ft		

## 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
Latitude, Longitude:	37.900833, -100.766667		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Mitchell F Gallo

Adopted Date: 12/30/2003

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](mailto: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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