



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Location: | Manatee, FL | Accident Number: | ATL00LA031 |
| Date & Time: | 03/03/2000, 1720 EST | Registration: | NONE |
| Aircraft: | unknown unknown | Aircraft Damage: | Destroyed |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 1 Fatal |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

According to witnesses at the accident site, the airplane was about 80 feet above the runway, on final approach to land, when it suddenly nosed into the ground. Both witnesses reported that the engine appeared to have been operating prior to impact. The toxicology report indicated that propoxyphene, amitriptyline, and a high level of diphenhydramine were found in the pilot's blood. Propoxyphene is a prescription narcotic painkiller known to impair cognitive performance. Amitriptyline is a sedating antidepressant. Diphenhydramine is an over-the-counter sedating antihistamine. The pilot had no current FAA medical certificate.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's impairment due to the use of unapproved medication which led to loss of control in flight.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) USE OF INAPPROPRIATE MEDICATION/DRUG - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GRASS

Factual Information

On March 3, 2000, at 1720 eastern standard time, an unregistered experimental airplane, collided with the ground while attempting a landing on runway 27 at Redder Airport in Manatee, Florida. The personal flight was operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 with no flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The airplane sustained substantial damage, and the private pilot received fatal injuries. The flight departed Manatee, Florida, at an undetermined time.

According to witnesses at the accident site, the airplane was about 80 feet above the runway, on final approach to land, when it suddenly nosed into the ground. Both witnesses reported that the engine appeared to have been operating prior to impact.

On March 4, 2000, the postmortem examination on the pilot was performed at the Office of the District Twelve Medical Examiner, Sarasota, Florida. The toxicology report indicated that propoxyphene, a prescription narcotic painkiller often known by the trade name Darvon, norpropoxyphene, a metabolite of propoxyphene, amitriptyline, a prescription antidepressant, its active metabolite nortriptylene, and diphenhydramine, an over-the-counter sedating antihistamine, were found in the pilot's blood and urine.

The FAA does not regulate the use of any specific prescription or over-the-counter medications by pilots, though the FARs do state that (Sec. 91.17): "No person may act or attempt to act as a crewmember of a civil aircraft ... While using any drug that affects the person's faculties in any way contrary to safety...." The pilot had no current FAA medical certificate. The pilot's personal medical history was not acquired for examination.

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 78, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine Land | Seat Occupied: | Right |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | Yes |
| Medical Certification: | Unknown Unknown | Last FAA Medical Exam: | |
| Occupational Pilot: | | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | unknown | Registration: | NONE |
| Model/Series: | unknown | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | Yes |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | | Serial Number: | |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | Unknown | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 22 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | Bombardier |
| ELT: | | Engine Model/Series: | 3945879 |
| Registered Owner: | unregistered | Rated Power: | |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | MCF, 13 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 45 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 1655 EST | Direction from Accident Site: | 350° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Scattered / 4000 ft agl | Visibility | 7 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 8 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 300° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 29.98 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 21 °C / 15 °C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | Manatee, FL | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | |
| Destination: | | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | EST | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

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|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Airport: | Redder Airport | Runway Surface Type: | Grass/turf |
| Airport Elevation: | 27 ft | Runway Surface Condition: | Unknown |
| Runway Used: | 27 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 3700 ft / 100 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Unknown |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Fatal | Aircraft Damage: | Destroyed |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Fatal | Latitude, Longitude: | 27.485278, -82.534167 |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Phillip Powell | Report Date: | 09/30/2003 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Steve Dobrovic; Tampa FSDO; Tampa, FL | | |
| 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](#).