



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Elbow Lake, MN	Accident Number:	CHI03LA242
Date & Time:	08/02/2003, 0630 CDT	Registration:	NONE
Aircraft:	Teratorn	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The unregistered two-place airplane was destroyed on impact with terrain. The non-instrument rated pilot was fatally injured. The accident pilot was told by his wife prior to the flight that the weather conditions at the destination were foggy. The accident pilot replied to his wife that he could see the tops of the trees "and he was going to fly low and follow the rail road tracks." The Sheriff's report stated the pilot's brother said that "it was too foggy to be flying. The only reason he was flying was to look for [the accident pilot,] his brother."

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's intentional flight into known fog and failure to maintain aircraft control during cruise flight. A factor was the fog, and the low altitude flight.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (C) FLIGHT INTO ADVERSE WEATHER - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

3. AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED
4. LOW ALTITUDE FLIGHT/MANEUVER

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	46
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	46 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:		Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	Teratorn	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Richard A. Johnson	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	532
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FFM, 1205 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 200 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 350°
Temperature:	16° C	Visibility	0.25 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Elbow Lake, MN (PVY)	Destination:	ELBOW LAKE, MN (Y63)

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:	45.986111, -95.991944		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Edward F Malinowski	Adopted Date:	06/30/2004
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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