



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Cloudcroft, NM	Accident Number:	DEN04LA017
Date & Time:	11/01/2003, 1157 MST	Registration:	N9864F
Aircraft:	Cessna 172R	Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The airplane was flying through a valley when the pilot unexpectedly encountered rapidly rising terrain. The valley that the accident airplane went through, gains approximately 3,000 feet over 5 statute miles. The pilot was forced to turn sharp to the right and could not maintain altitude. The airplane impacted into a heavily forested area, destroying the airplane and causing serious injury to the pilot receiving instruction and the flight instructor on board.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the dual student's failure to maintain clearance from the terrain. Also causal was the flight instructor's inadequate supervision. Low altitude flight and rising terrain are contributing factors.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - DUAL STUDENT
2. (F) LOW ALTITUDE FLIGHT/MANEUVER
3. (F) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
4. CLIMB - NOT ATTAINED - DUAL STUDENT
5. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
6. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	23
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	932 hours (Total, all aircraft), 385 hours (Total, this make and model), 853 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	19
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	75 hours (Total, all aircraft), 74 hours (Total, this make and model), 28 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9864F
Model/Series:	172R	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Hesston College	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-L2A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ALM, 4200 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 130°
Temperature:	20° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Las Cruces, NM (LRU)	Destination:	Roswell, NM (ROW)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	32.976111, -105.738611		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	James F Struhsaker	Adopted Date:	06/02/2004
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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