



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Del Norte, CO	Accident Number:	DEN05LA060
Date & Time:	03/01/2005, 0925 MST	Registration:	N9091
Aircraft:	Piel Emeraude CP-305	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Shortly after departure, the airplane impacted near the base of a 300-foot butte. According to a witness, the pilot and passenger departed the airport to the west and he then lost sight of the airplane behind rising terrain adjacent to the airport. The witness reported the engine sounded normal during departure. Another witness, located in his residence, heard the airplane and a few minutes later heard a "pop." The witness observed a fire on a hillside. Examination of the accident site revealed the airplane impacted the terrain and came to rest approximately 167 feet from the initial impact. The airplane was destroyed by fire. The propeller blades displayed leading edge gouging, chordwise scratches, and were twisted in the direction of rotation. Flight control continuity was established from the cockpit to the flight control surfaces. The pilot had accumulated approximately 900 total flight hours.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance with the terrain for undetermined reasons.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On March 1, 2005, approximately 0925 mountain standard time, a Piel Emeraude CP-305 single-engine homebuilt airplane, N9091, piloted by a private pilot, was destroyed when it impacted terrain while maneuvering near Del Norte, Colorado. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 without a flight plan. The private pilot, who was the owner of the airplane, and pilot-rated passenger sustained fatal injuries. The flight originated from Del Norte Municipal and County Airport (8V1), Del Norte, Colorado, approximately 0920.

According to local authorities, the pilot and passenger were flying to South Park, Colorado, to look at a radio for the passenger. A witness observed the accident airplane depart 8V1 on runway 26, and within a few minutes, the witness lost sight of the airplane behind rising terrain adjacent to the airport. The witness stated the "engine sounded normal" during the takeoff. Another witness, who was located in his residence, stated he heard an airplane, and a few minutes later, he heard a "pop." The witness observed a fire on a hillside and responded to the accident site. At 0925, the local authorities received a 911 call reporting a fire on the north side of a 300-foot butte, approximately 2 miles northwest of Del Norte. Approximately 0945, the local authorities confirmed an aircraft wreckage at the location of the fire.

According to the pilot's most recent medical application, he had accumulated a total of 900 total flight hours. The pilot held a private pilot certificate and was issued a third class medical certificate on December 30, 2003, with a limitation for corrective lenses. The airplane was registered to the pilot and a co-owner on January 16, 2003, and was based at 8V1.

The accident site was located approximately 1 mile southwest of 8V1 near the base of a 300 foot tall hill. According to local authorities, the airplane impacted the terrain and came to rest approximately 167 feet from the initial impact. The airplane was destroyed by fire. Examination of the accident site by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector revealed the propeller blades displayed leading edge gouging, chordwise scratches, and were twisted in the direction of rotation. Flight control continuity was established from the cockpit to the flight control surfaces.

At 0852, the reported weather conditions at San Luis Valley Regional/Bergman Field (ALS), Alamosa, CO, located approximately 30 nautical miles southeast of the accident site, were wind from 310 degrees at 5 knots, visibility, 10 statute miles, sky broken at 6,500 feet, temperature 1 degree Celcius, dew point minus 6 degrees Celcius, altimeter setting of 30.02 inches of mercury. The calculated density altitude was 7,559 feet msl.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	67, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/01/2003
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	900 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piel Emeraude	Registration:	N9091
Model/Series:	CP-305	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	9-15
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-C
Registered Owner:	Robert A. Brunette	Rated Power:	108 hp
Operator:	Robert A. Brunette	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KALS, 7539 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0852 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	110°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 50 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	1°C / -6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Del Norte, CO (8V1)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	South Park, CO	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0920 MST	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	37.699167, -106.370278

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Aaron M Sauer	Report Date:	12/20/2005
Additional Participating Persons:	Raymond Ryan; Federal Aviation Administration; Denver, CO		
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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