



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Crookston, MN	Accident Number:	CHI07FA032
Date & Time:	12/01/2006, 1830 CST	Registration:	N9850G
Aircraft:	CESSNA	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane took off in deteriorating meteorological conditions and impacted the ground about 1 mile from the departure airport, fatally injuring both occupants. The pilot held a private pilot certificate and had accumulated 102.5 hours of total flight experience but only 4.6 hours of simulated instrument experience; he had no actual flying experience in instrument conditions. Near the time of the accident, the weather was reported as a ceiling of 200 feet above the ground with snow and 1 mile of visibility. It is likely that the non-instrument rated private pilot's decision to take off in deteriorating weather conditions was due to his lack of flying experience; once he took off into the instrument meteorological conditions, he became spatially disoriented and was unable to maintain control of the airplane. Examination of the airplane revealed no pre-impact anomalies.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadvertent flight into instrument meteorological conditions which led to his spatial disorientation and subsequent loss of control. Factors were the snow, the low ceiling, and the pilot's lack of instrument flight experience.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
2. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING

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

Findings

4. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LACK OF EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

7. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	18
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	103 hours (Total, all aircraft), 30 hours (Total, this make and model), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N9850G
Model/Series:		Engines:	1
Operator:	Miller Aircraft Services, Inc	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CKN, 899 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 200 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / 16 knots, 320°
Temperature:	-7° C	Visibility	1 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Moderate - Snow		
Departure Point:	Crookston, MN (CKN)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	CROOKSTON MUNI KIRKWOOD FLD (CKN)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	31	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	47.829444, -96.637222		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): John M Brannen

Adopted Date: 01/31/2008

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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