



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Koliganek, AK	Accident Number:	ANC08LA046
Date & Time:	04/01/2008, 1540 AKD	Registration:	N8327S
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was in cruise flight about 700 feet agl over near featureless snow-covered terrain when he encounter lowering ceilings. He described the weather conditions as rapidly deteriorating. He began a turn to reverse direction, and the airplane collided with terrain. His destination, about 10 miles away, was reporting a visibility of 2 miles in mist, and a ceiling of 400 feet broken. The ceiling was variable between 200 to 900 feet. A low ceiling and snow-covered terrain likely produced flat lighting conditions, making visual reference to terrain, and determining height above the ground difficult.

Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - VFR encounter with IMC
Maneuvering - Loss of visual reference
Maneuvering - Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's VFR flight into adverse weather conditions that resulted in a collision with snow-covered terrain during a turn to reverse direction. Factors contributing to the accident were low ceilings, flat lighting conditions, and the snow-covered terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action selection-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Flat light-Effect on personnel - F
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Snowy/icy-Contributed to outcome - F
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Low visibility-Contributed to outcome - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	3669 hours (Total, all aircraft), 33 hours (Total, this make and model), 2440 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N8327S
Model/Series:	PA-32	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Peninsula Airways Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Commuter Air Carrier (135)	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540K
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAJZ, 269 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 400 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots, 130°
Temperature:	1°C / 0°C	Visibility	2 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Dillingham, AK (PADL)	Destination:	Koliganek, AK (PAJZ)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Scott R Erickson	Adopted Date:	12/11/2008
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.ntsbt.gov/pubdms/ .		

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