



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Plymouth, NC	Accident Number:	ERA09LA033B
Date & Time:	11/01/2008, 0935 EDT	Registration:	N2139N
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-28-236	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of a Piper Cherokee (PA-32-260) was practicing a global-positioning-system (GPS) instrument approach in visual meteorological conditions without a safety observer onboard. Another pilot, in a Piper Dakota (PA-28-236), was also navigating inbound to the airport via GPS. Both pilots stated that they made inbound radio calls, during which they didn't hear each other, but heard a response from an airplane on the ground. The Dakota subsequently overtook the Cherokee and impacted its right side, peeling back the roof. The Dakota then descended, coming to rest inverted in trees, while the Cherokee entered a spin until a low-level recovery, followed by a descent into a river.

Flight Events

Approach - Midair collision

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The Piper Dakota (PA-28-236) pilot's failure to see and avoid the Piper Cherokee (PA-32-260).

Findings

Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Monitoring other aircraft-Pilot of other aircraft
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	71
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1049 hours (Total, all aircraft), 453 hours (Total, this make and model), 1049 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N2139N
Model/Series:	PA-28-236	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BUZBY WALTER M JR	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-540 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	EDE, 39 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 230°
Temperature:	20° C / 2° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Washington, NC (OCW)	Destination:	Plymouth, NC (PMZ)

Airport Information

Airport:	Plymouth Municipal (PMZ)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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):	Paul R Cox	Adopted Date:	11/09/2009
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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