



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Philadelphia, MS	Accident Number:	ERA09LA128
Date & Time:	01/02/2009, 1200 CST	Registration:	N5013C
Aircraft:	AIR TRACTOR INC AT-602	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

The non-instrument rated pilot departed an estimated 20 minutes in trail behind another pilot flying to the same destination airport, for an intended fuel stop, located approximately 239 nautical miles away. The two pilots exchanged two-way communications using text messaging and the first pilot performed a precautionary landing in a field due to adverse weather. At approximately 1155, the pilot sent a text message to his brother advising him he was on the way home and dodging weather. At approximately 1156, the accident pilot was sent a text message asking about the weather to which he replied he could not see. Witnesses near the area reported hearing a sound and the airplane impacted trees. The airplane impacted trees, then the ground, and was destroyed by impact and the postcrash fire. Inspection of the engine, airframe, and flight controls revealed no evidence of preimpact failure or malfunction.

Flight Events

Enroute - VFR encounter with IMC
Enroute - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper preflight weather planning and his continued VFR flight into IMC conditions resulting in an in-flight collision with trees.

Findings

Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Weather planning-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	7500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2500 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIR TRACTOR INC	Registration:	N5013C
Model/Series:	AT-602	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	QUINN AVIATION INC	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W CANADA
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-60AG
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MEI, 297 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1300 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 190°
Temperature:	17° C / 14° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Greenville, AL (PRN)	Destination:	Cleveland, MS (RNV)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy W Monville	Adopted Date:	10/21/2010
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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