



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Seligman, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR11CA036
Date & Time:	11/01/2010, 0030 MST	Registration:	N9614V
Aircraft:	AEROSTAR ACFT CORP OF TEXAS M20E	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that shortly after takeoff, he turned to his intended heading and climbed to a predetermined cruise altitude to maintain clearance from terrain during the night visual flight rules cross-country flight. Following an uneventful cruise phase of the flight, the pilot observed what he believed to be his destination airport and initiated a descent. The pilot stated that he was unable to turn on the airport runway lights and decided to continue the descent to the airport's traffic pattern altitude of 4,500 feet mean sea level (msl) while circling the airport. During the second circle and descent, the pilot aborted the descent and began to initiate a climb whereupon the airplane impacted terrain at an elevation of about 5,200 feet msl. The pilot reported that he was surprised when local law enforcement informed him that he was in Seligman, Arizona, instead of his intended destination of Boulder City, Nevada. The pilot reported that there were no pre-impact anomalies with the airplane that would have contributed to the accident and that "all systems were working." The pilot added that prior to the flight; he estimated an approximate heading and altitude needed for the flight to his destination airport.

Flight Events

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 failure to maintain clearance from terrain while maneuvering. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's inadequate preflight and in-flight planning.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Incorrect use/operation - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Flight planning/navigation-Pilot - F
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Dark-Not specified

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	345 hours (Total, all aircraft), 27 hours (Total, this make and model), 112 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AEROSTAR ACFT CORP OF TEXAS	Registration:	N9614V
Model/Series:	M20E	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Randy Donnarumma	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCMR	Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Night/Dark	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 150°
Temperature:	0°C / -4°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Kingman, AZ	Destination:	Boulder City, NV

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):	Joshua Cawthra	Adopted Date:	12/20/2010
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77724		

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