



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Orange, MA	Accident Number:	ERA11FA102
Date & Time:	01/01/2011, 1757 EST	Registration:	N6725X
Aircraft:	CESSNA 310F	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot and passenger were on a pleasure flight in the multi-engine airplane and at the last moment the pilot decided to conduct a touch-and-go landing and takeoff at a nearby airport. During a short final leg of the landing approach, the pilot recalled seeing white and red lights on the left side of the runway and believed these were visual approach slope indicator lights. He was uncertain of what light color arrangement indicated a proper glide path to the runway. As the airplane approached the runway, the lights started to flicker, at which time the pilot applied full engine power, but the airplane immediately collided with trees and came to rest inverted. The pilot stated that there was less ambient light than he had anticipated and that there was haze in the air. He was not aware of the trees at the approach end of the runway. The airport was not tower controlled and none of the 4 runways were equipped with visual approach slope indicator lights. The intended landing runway has a published displaced threshold that is 850 feet from the runway's original threshold. Published information cautions about trees at the approach end of that runway. The pilot did not review any publication for the intended airport before the flight. Additionally, the pilot did not hold a multi-engine rating or a multi-engine solo endorsement. The last entry in his flight logbooks for night flight was in 2000. The pilot reported no mechanical issues with the airplane before the accident.

Flight Events

Approach-VFR pattern final - Altitude deviation
Approach-VFR pattern final - 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 did not maintain separation from trees during landing. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's inadequate preflight planning and lack of recent night flight experience.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-(general)-(general)-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Recent experience-Pilot - F
Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Qualification/certification-Pilot
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Flight planning/navigation-Pilot - F
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Low light-Effect on personnel
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Haze/smoke-Effect on personnel

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:	500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 50 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N6725X
Model/Series:	310F	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	ORE, 555 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	
Condition of Light:	Night	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 310°
Temperature:	2°C / 1°C	Visibility	9 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Keene, NH (EEN)	Destination:	Keene, NH (EEN)

Airport Information

Airport:	Orange Municipal Airport (ORE)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	19	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jose Obregon	Adopted Date:	02/23/2012
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78081		

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