



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Rainbow City, AL	Accident Number:	ERA12FA149
Date & Time:	01/20/2012, 1818 CST	Registration:	N16RZ
Aircraft:	AERO VODOCHODY L39C	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot radioed an air traffic controller and obtained an instrument flight rules clearance while on the ground. The pilot read back the clearance and was informed that he was released for departure and to switch to advisory frequency. There was no further radio contact between air traffic controllers and the pilot, and the airplane was never radar identified. The base of the radar coverage at the airport is 4,000 feet. Another pilot, who was on the ground at the airport waiting to depart, informed the controller that he watched the flight depart and heard a pretty loud boom shortly afterward. A postcrash fire ensued. The ceiling was 300 feet overcast, with visibility 1 mile in mist. The main wreckage was located about 1.1 miles south-southwest of the airport in a swampy wooded area. Postcrash examination revealed no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Loss of control in flight
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Uncontrolled descent - Unknown or undetermined

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: An in-flight loss of control in instrument meteorological conditions.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Low ceiling-Contributed to outcome - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	58
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	5200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 83 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO VODOCHODY	Registration:	N16RZ
Model/Series:	L39C	Engines:	1 Turbo Jet
Operator:	Thomas L. Coble	Engine Manufacturer:	IVCHENKO
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	AL-25SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GAD, 569 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 300 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 80°
Temperature:	12° C	Visibility	1 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Mist; Fog; No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Gadsden, AL (GAD)	Destination:	Burlington, NC (BUY)

Airport Information

Airport:	Northeast Alabama Regional (GAD)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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:	On-Ground
Latitude, Longitude:	33.952222, -86.101389 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Carrol A Smith	Adopted Date:	05/30/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=82708		

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