



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Kahului, HI	Accident Number:	WPR13LA062
Date & Time:	12/01/2012, 1900 HST	Registration:	N3554Y
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172S	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The noninstrument-rated pilot was conducting a personal interisland flight. According to air traffic control information, shortly after the airplane took off, an air traffic controller observed that the airplane's radar track was not heading toward the pilot's intended destination. He asked the pilot if he still intended to land at his original destination, and the pilot replied that he did. The pilot then reported that he was going to perform a 360-degree turn to track toward his intended destination. However, the airplane's radar track showed that the airplane then made a descending left turn. Subsequently, radio and radar contact with the pilot and airplane, respectively, were lost, and a search and rescue mission was initiated. Parts of the airplane were located, but the pilot and the majority of the airplane were not found. During the flight, the pilot did not report any mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Dark (moonless) night conditions prevailed for the flight. Weather information did not reveal the presence of any aviation weather hazards. The data did identify the potential for broken cloud layers below 3,000 ft mean sea level in the area at the time of the accident. Further, weather radar imagery identified light rain showers at ground level. The pilot's intended flightpath likely would have taken the airplane through or very close to the area of light rain; however, it could not be determined how long the pilot might have operated the airplane in these conditions. It is likely that the pilot became spatially disoriented after flying over the ocean during dark night conditions with reduced visibility and subsequently failed to maintain airplane control.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Loss of control in flight
Maneuvering - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The noninstrument-rated pilot's spatial disorientation and subsequent failure to maintain airplane control while operating over water in dark night conditions with reduced visibility due to rain in the area.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Psychological-Perception/orientation/illusion-Spatial disorientation-Pilot - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
 Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Water-Contributed to outcome
 Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Dark-Effect on operation - C
 Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Rain-Effect on operation - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	785 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N3554Y
Model/Series:	172S	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	KRALL JOSE H	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-L2A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	OGG, 54 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Night/Dark	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 250°
Temperature:	24° C / 19° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Kahului, HI (OGG)	Destination:	Kaunakakai, HI (MKK)

Airport Information

Airport:	Kahului Airport (OGG)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
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:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Tealeye Cornejo	Adopted Date:	05/13/2015
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=85726		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.