



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Oceano, CA	Accident Number:	WPR13FA083
Date & Time:	01/02/2013, 1605 PST	Registration:	N45923
Aircraft:	LUSCOMBE 8A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Witnesses reported that they observed the airplane flying low above the beach before it ascended abruptly. When the airplane was about 150 to 200 feet above the ground, the ascent stopped, and the airplane then descended in a nose low attitude to ground impact. Witnesses also reported that the engine sounded normal during the accident sequence. Postaccident examination of the airframe and engine revealed no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot had a reported history of marijuana abuse. Toxicology testing on the pilot was positive for tetrahydrocannabinol at levels that indicate he was likely impaired during the flight. This impairment likely affected the pilot's ability to maintain airplane control and his decision to begin a low-level flight maneuver at an altitude that was not sufficient for recovery before impact with the ground.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Aerodynamic stall/spin
Uncontrolled descent - 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 failure to maintain airplane control and his improper decision to begin a low-level maneuver at an altitude that was not sufficient for recovery before ground impact. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's impairment from marijuana use.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Personnel issues-Physical-Impairment/incapacitation-Illicit drug-Pilot - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	7000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 99999 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	LUSCOMBE	Registration:	N45923
Model/Series:	8A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	GLEN P RAY	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	A&C65 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	SBP, 212 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	17° C / -6° C	Visibility:	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Oceano, CA (L52)	Destination:	Oceano, CA (L52)

Airport Information

Airport:	Oceano County Airport (L52)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
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):	Samantha A Link	Adopted Date:	01/20/2015
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=85940		

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