



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Placerville, CA	Accident Number:	WPR14FA348
Date & Time:	08/16/2014, 1840 PDT	Registration:	N411TM
Aircraft:	CLIFF STARDUSTER II SA300	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While on approach for landing, the private pilot initiated a go-around on short final due to gusty crosswind conditions. During the climbout, the pilot reported that the airplane experienced a partial loss of engine power. The airplane subsequently collided with terrain, seriously injuring the pilot and fatally injuring the passenger. Postaccident examination of the engine and airframe revealed no evidence of any preexisting mechanical anomalies that would have precluded normal operation.

Blood samples from the pilot tested positive for methamphetamine and its active metabolite, amphetamine. The methamphetamine was found at high levels, indicative of abuse. It is likely that the pilot was impaired by the psychoactive effects of illicit methamphetamine use at the time of the accident, which impaired his ability to maintain control of the airplane during the go-around attempt.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Loss of engine power (partial)
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 control of the airplane during a go-around in gusting wind conditions following a partial loss of engine power for reasons that could not be determined, because postaccident examination of the airframe and engine did not reveal any anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's impairment due to his recent use of methamphetamine.

Findings

Personnel issues-Physical-Impairment/incapacitation-Illicit drug-Pilot - F
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Gusts-Effect on equipment - F
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	432 hours (Total, all aircraft), 172 hours (Total, this make and model), 342 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 62 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CLIFF	Registration:	N411TM
Model/Series:	STARDUSTER II SA300 NO SERIES	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAUN, 1531 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	32 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SAN JOSE, CA (RHV)	Destination:	Placerville, CA (01CL)

Airport Information

Airport:	SWANSBORO COUNTRY (01CL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	09	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3100 ft / 50 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	38.800000, -120.716111 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew L Swick	Adopted Date:	01/26/2017
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=89891		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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