National Transportation Safety Board
Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Raton, NM	**Accident Number:**	CEN15FA255
Date & Time:	06/05/2015, 0628 MDT	**Registration:**	N162WR
Aircraft:	CUB CRAFTERS CC18-180	**Injuries:**	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Public Aircraft		

Analysis

The airplane, which was being operated as a public aircraft, departed with the pilot and a gunner on board for the local flight. The purpose of the flight was to locate and kill coyotes in a geographical area with a history of livestock damage. According to the ground-based spotter, the pilot established radio contact with him after the airplane passed over the mesa that bordered the western edge of the target area. The pilot transmitted that he had observed a coyote behind the spotter's position and that they were going to perform a low-altitude pass for the gunner to kill the coyote. The spotter turned around and located the coyote using his binoculars. He reported that he heard 2 to 3 shotgun blasts as the airplane passed through his field of view on a northeast heading. He remained focused on the coyote as the airplane exited his field of view, and, shortly thereafter, he heard it impact the ground.

A review of recovered GPS data indicated that the airplane descended to about 41 ft above the ground and then entered a climbing left turn. The airplane's calculated groundspeed decreased from 77 mph to 55 mph during the climbing left turn. According to the airplane flight manual, the wings-level aerodynamic stall speed was 52 mph with the flaps retracted; however, the stall speed increased to 56 mph when the airplane was in a coordinated 30° banked turn and 74 mph when the airplane was in a coordinated 60° banked turn. A postaccident examination established that the airplane had crashed in a nose-low, near-vertical attitude. Based on the GPS data and the near-vertical impact angle, the pilot likely did not maintain adequate airspeed during the climbing left turn, which resulted in the airplane exceeding its critical angle of attack and experiencing an aerodynamic stall at a low altitude. The postaccident wreckage examination did not reveal any anomalies that would have precluded normal operation of the airplane during the flight.

Although postaccident toxicological testing of the pilot identified three over-the-counter sedating antihistamines, the lack of available blood for testing prevented a determination as to whether they affected the pilot's psychomotor or cognitive functioning during the accident flight.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Loss of control in flight
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - 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 adequate airspeed while maneuvering at a low altitude, which resulted in the airplane exceeding its critical angle of attack and experiencing an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Angle of attack-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Physical-Health/Fitness-Use of medication/drugs-Pilot

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	**Age:**	54
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	**Instrument Rating(s):**	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Instructor Rating(s):**	None
Flight Time:	13484 hours (Total, all aircraft), 13034 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 142.4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 62.4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5.3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CUB CRAFTERS	**Registration:**	N162WR
Model/Series:	CC18-180	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	USDA-APHIS-WS	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-360-C4P
Flight Conducted Under:	Public Aircraft		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RTN, 6352 ft msl	**Weather Information Source:**	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:**	7 knots / , 50°
Temperature:	12°C	**Visibility**	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Raton, NM (RTN)	**Destination:**	Raton, NM (RTN)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Latitude, Longitude:	36.716389, -104.133333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew T Fox	**Adopted Date:**	05/11/2017
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=91312		