



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Wayne, NE	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN16FA073
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/03/2016, 1840 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	N5104D
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 172N	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The noninstrument-rated pilot planned to conduct a cross-country flight. Before departure on the second leg of the flight, the pilot obtained a weather briefing, which noted areas of instrument flight rules (IFR) conditions along his route of flight, including his destination airport. During the briefing, the pilot indicated that his vehicle and work was at his destination. The briefer and pilot discussed flying visual flight rules (VFR) over the cloud layer and possible alternate destination airports. The briefer suggested maintaining VFR flight and making an intermediary stop to again check the weather. The pilot elected to fly direct to his destination. During the flight, the pilot flew above the cloud layer and received VFR flight-following from ATC. The controller advised him that his preferred destination airport was currently under IFR conditions, but another airport was reporting VFR. The pilot elected to continue to the alternate destination airport. The pilot notified the controller he did not have visual contact with the ground and continued his descent. Shortly thereafter, the controller lost radar and radio communication with the pilot. About the time of the accident, a person in the area reported the weather conditions as, "clouds on the ground," with low ceilings, and freezing fog and added that the visibility had changed from about 6 miles to less than 1/4 mile in seconds. The airplane wreckage was located about 8 miles from the airport. Examination of the wreckage did not reveal any anomalies that would have precluded normal operations. A review of the pilot's logbook revealed he had a total of about 111 flight hours. The accident is consistent with controlled flight into terrain in instrument meteorological conditions as the pilot continued the descent without the ground in sight.

## Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Other weather encounter  
Enroute-descent - VFR encounter with IMC  
Approach - 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 improper decision to continue visual flight into instrument meteorological conditions, which resulted in a collision with terrain.

## Findings

Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Flight planning/navigation-Pilot - C  
 Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C  
 Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Below VFR minima-  
 Decision related to condition - C  
 Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Below VFR minima-  
 Effect on operation - C

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	111.7 hours (Total, all aircraft), 109.2 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5104D
Model/Series:	172N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	0-320 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLCG	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:		Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown
Condition of Light:	Not Reported	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 30°
Temperature:	-14°C / -15°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Columbia, MO (KCOU)	Destination:	Sioux City, IA (KSUX)

### 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):	Craig Hatch	Adopted Date:	10/24/2016
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92512">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92512</a>		

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