



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Sioux Falls, SD	Accident Number:	CEN20LA215
Date & Time:	06/07/2020, 0425 CDT	Registration:	N44MX
Aircraft:	Mitsubishi MU2B	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

On June 7, 2020, about 0425 central daylight time, a Mitsubishi MU-2B airplane, N44MX, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 135 cargo flight.

The flight originated at Snohomish County Airport (Paine Field)(PAE), Everett, Washington, about 2115, and was originally destined for Huron Regional Airport (HON), Huron, South Dakota, for a fuel stop. However, preliminary air traffic control information and weather data was consistent with the pilot diverting to Joe Foss Field Airport (FSD), Sioux Falls, South Dakota, due to weather at HON at the time of intended arrival. The flight landed at FSD at 0140. The final destination was Kokomo Municipal Airport (OKK), Kokomo, Indiana.

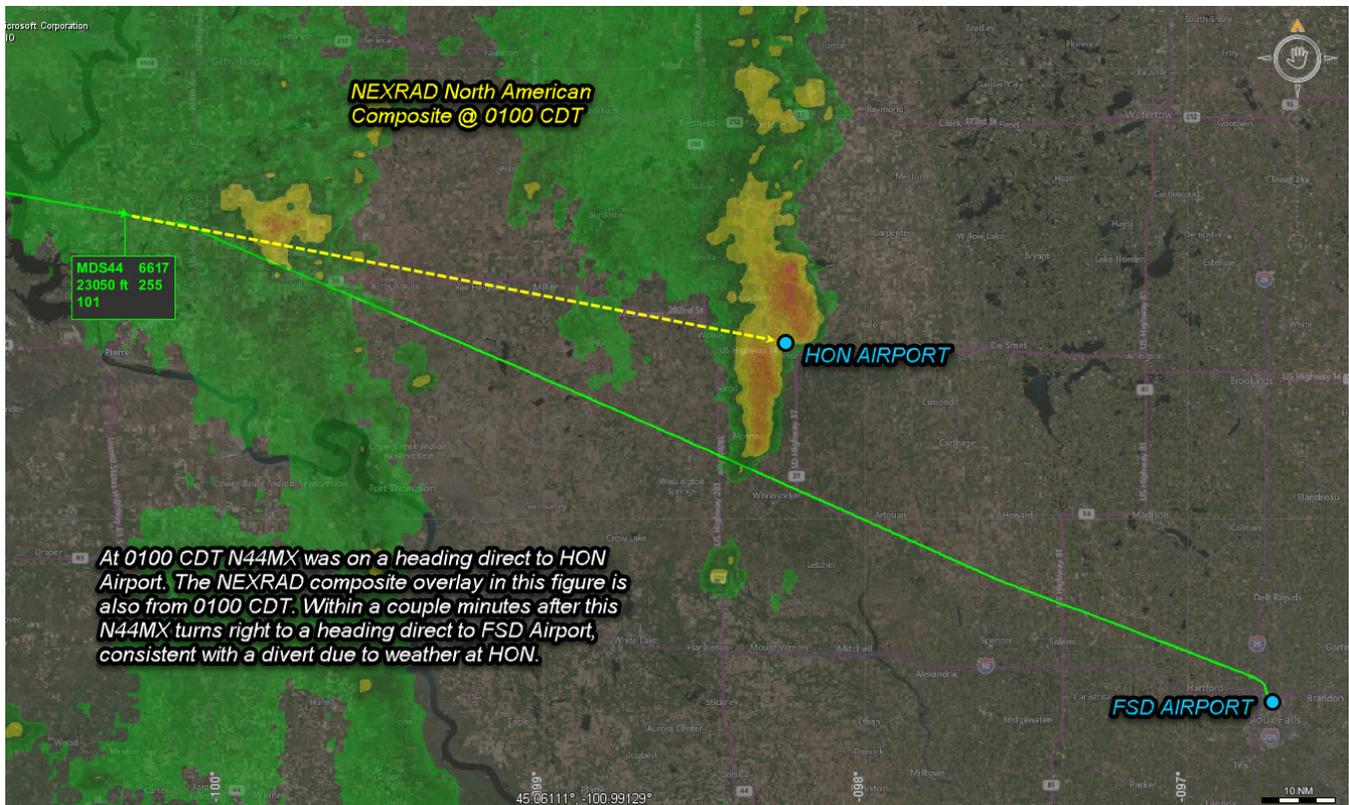


Figure 1: Final segment of inbound leg that originated Paine Field Airport (PAE).

According to dispatch records and statements from the fixed-base operator (FBO) personnel, the pilot had misplaced his cell phone and was unable to contact the on-call line service technician (LST) at the FBO for fuel. The operator's dispatcher was unable to get in contact with the pilot and, about 0310, called the FBO for verification the airplane had made it to FSD. The LST responded to the airport and confirmed that the airplane and pilot were on their ramp. The LST gave his phone to the pilot so that the pilot could speak to the operator's dispatcher while the LST retrieved the fuel truck. When the pilot spoke to the operator's dispatcher, he advised that he would be departing FSD enroute to OKK about 0400. The pilot requested the LST fill the tip tanks on the airplane wings with fuel.

Preliminary radar data indicated that the airplane departed FSD from runway 15 at 0426. According to video recordings captured from various facilities at FSD, the airplane appeared to have a normal takeoff roll. After rotation, a high pitch angle was established for initial climb out and the right wing began to dip. As the airplane climbed, the right wing continued to drop with the airplane rolling over to the right side. The airplane noses-over on the right side and continued in a nose down attitude and impacted the ground. Radar track data for the flight began when the airplane reached about 45 ft agl and was limited to 3 radar hits in 3 seconds until the airplane impacted.

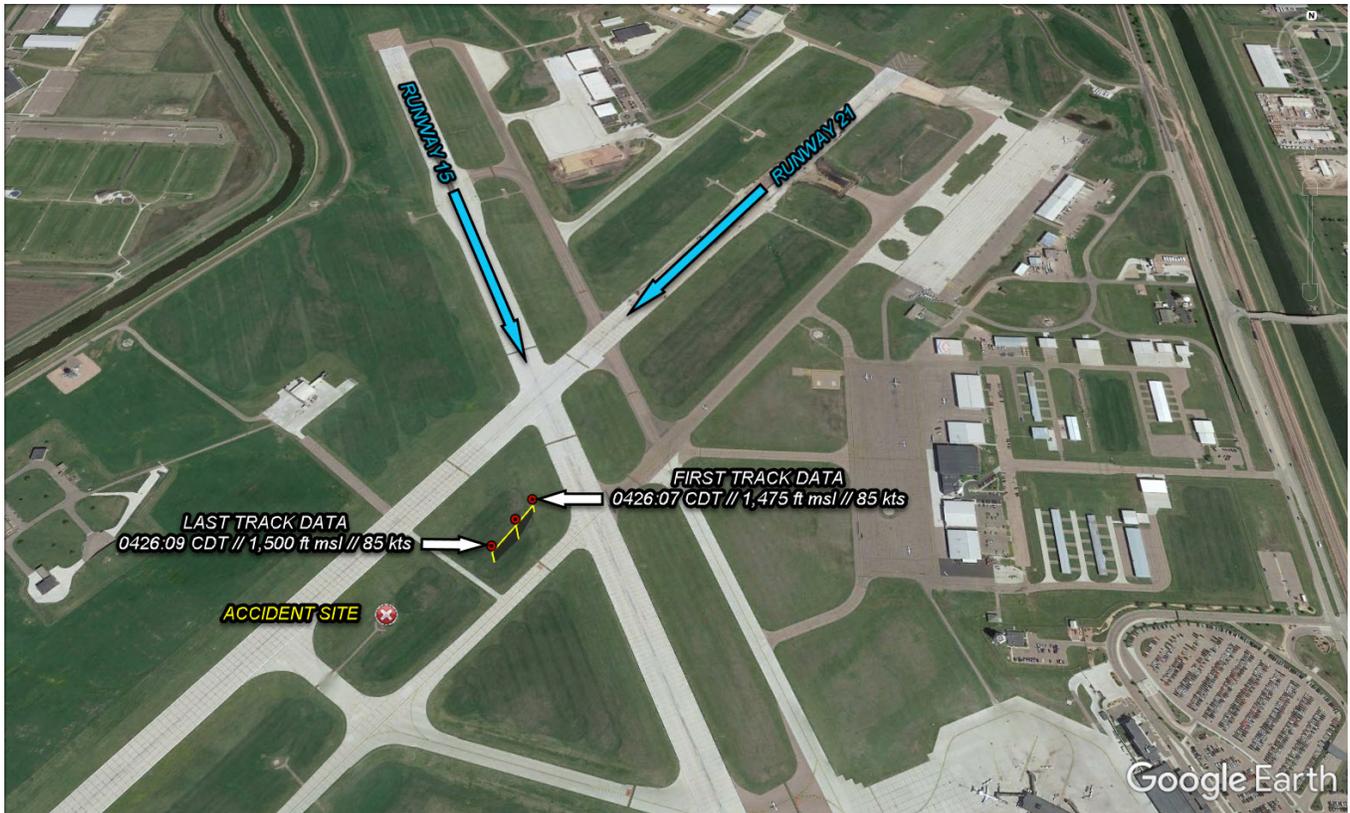


Figure 2: Flight track overview in profile.

The airplane wreckage was located in the infield area north of taxiway B3 between taxiway B and runway 3-21. All four corners of the airplane (both wings, and the nose and tail sections), as well as both engines, were accounted for in the airplane wreckage.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mitsubishi	Registration:	N44MX
Model/Series:	MU2B 60	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	McNeely Charter Service, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility:	
Altimeter Setting:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Sioux Falls, SD (FSD)	Destination:	Kokomo, IN (OKK)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	43.581389, -96.743611 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Courtney Liedler
Additional Participating Persons:	Todd Obritsch; Federal Aviation Administration; Rapid City, SD
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.