



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PETROS, TN	Accident Number:	ATL85FA039
Date & Time:	08/02/1984, 1400 EDT	Registration:	N27948
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-350	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE FLT DEPARTED FT. LAUDERDALE, FL, ON 8-2-84 AT APRX 0815 EDT FOR CINCINNATI, OH. THE ACFT WRECKAGE WAS FOUND ON 11-17-84 ON AN UP SLOPE OF BIG FODDER STACK MOUNTAIN. THE ACFT HAD CONTACTED A 25 FT TALL TREE LOCATED 200 FT WEST OF THE MAIN WRECKAGE. THE ONLY KNOWN RADIO CONTACT WAS RECALLED BY THE MONROE COUNTY APRT MANAGER WHO STATED THE PLT RADIOED TO EXCHANGE THE DAY'S GREETING. EXACT WX AT THE ACCIDENT SITE COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. HOWEVER, THE APRT MANAGER RECALLED THE HIGH TERRAIN BEING OBSCURED WITH POOR VISIBILITY.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LACK OF TOTAL INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

4. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
6. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	37, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/07/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1100 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N27948
Model/Series:	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-7952059
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-J2BD
Registered Owner:	SAC AIR, INC.	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TSY, 981 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1100 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	120°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4500 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 30000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C / 22° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL (FXE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CINCINNATI, OH	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0815 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	RICHARD O'LEARY; NASHVILLE, TN RUSSELL MCKNIGHT; VERO BEACH, FL		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).