



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SHIPPENVILLE, PA	Accident Number:	ATL86FA074
Date & Time:	02/12/1986, 2100 EST	Registration:	N4877V
Aircraft:	CESSNA 303	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry

Analysis

N4877V ARRIVED OVER CLARION COUNTY AIRPORT AT ABOUT 2100 HOURS, AND COMMENCED A VISUAL APPROACH FOR LANDING. MARGINAL VISUAL WEATHER CONDITIONS PREVAILED AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THE FLIGHT WAS OBSERVED BY ANOTHER PILOT WAITING ON THE GROUND FOR THE AIRCRAFT. THIS PILOT REPORTED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN THROUGH A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS AS IT TURNED LEFT, SOUTHWEST, AS IF TO ESTABLISH A LEFT DOWNWIND FOR RUNWAY 05. THE AIRCRAFT WAS LOCATED IN A WOODED AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE AIRPORT. AN EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE FAILED TO INDICATE ANY MALFUNCTION OR SYSTEM FAILURE. THE AIRCRAFT IMPACTED THE GROUND IN A NOSE LOW ATTITUDE AND THE WRECKAGE WAS CONFINED TO AN AREA INDICATIVE WITH A STALL TYPE ACCIDENT.

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: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
 2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
 3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
 4. (F) WEATHER EVALUATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 6. (C) VFR PROCEDURES - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

Findings

7. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
 8. STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

9. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	33, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/13/1985
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3504 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2198 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4877V
Model/Series:	303 303	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	T303-00282
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/06/1986, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	32 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	80 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-E
Registered Owner:	HSFC & ASSOCIATES	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	STEEL CITY AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DUJ, 1817 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2050 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	95°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	2 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 900 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-9° C / -13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	CLEVELAND, OH	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0621 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	CLARION COUNTY (CIP)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1458 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow--compacted
Runway Used:	23	IFR Approach:	VOR
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	DOYAL MILLER; WEST MIFFLIN, PA DAVID KOUNTZ; WEST MIFFLIN, PA DALE CARTER; ATLANTA, GA BOB JOURNAGAN; WICHITA, KS		
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/ .		

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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](#).