



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SAFFORD, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX89FA111
Date & Time:	02/14/1989, 2245 MST	Registration:	N8814K
Aircraft:	CESSNA 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

DURING THE NIGHT CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT AT FL250, THE PILOT ELECTED TO LEAVE THE COCKPIT AREA AND MOVE TO THE REAR OF THE AIRCRAFT TO ATTEND TO PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS. ALTHOUGH OXYGEN WAS AVAILABLE IN THE COCKPIT, SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN WAS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE REAR. THE AIRCRAFT WAS OPERATED WITH A KNOWN PRESSURIZATION SYSTEM DEFICIENCY WHICH LIMITED THE AIRPLANE TO FLIGHT TO 17,000 FEET MSL WHILE MAINTAINING A CABIN ALTITUDE OF 10,000 FEET. AFTER 2 HOURS AND 10 MINUTES, ATC DECLARED THE FLIGHT TO BE 'NO RADIO'. AT 3 HOURS AND 57 MINUTES AFTER DEPARTURE, THE AIRPLANE WAS PLOTTED ON RADAR IN A DESCENDING LEFT TURN TO GROUND IMPACT. FUEL STARVATION RESULTED IN POWER LOSS TO THE LEFT ENGINE. PROPELLER SIGNATURES INDICATED POWER ON THE RIGHT PROPELLER AT IMPACT. THE PILOT'S BODY WAS FOUND IN THE AFT CABIN AREA ON THE AFT CABIN BULKHEAD.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S POOR JUDGEMENT AND THE RESULTANT HYPOXIA SUSTAINED IN THE UNPRESSURIZED AIRPLANE. FACTORS WERE: THE MALFUNCTIONING PRESSURIZATION SYSTEM AND THE PILOT'S DECISION TO CONTINUE OPERATION WITH THAT KNOWN DISCREPANCY.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) AIR COND/HEATING/PRESSURIZATION - FAILURE,PARTIAL
 2. (F) OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT(ANOXIA/HYPOXIA) - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - NONMECHANICAL

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

5. 1 ENGINE
 6. FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/22/1987
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	10000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N8814K
Model/Series:	340A 340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	340A-0988
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/16/1980, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5990 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-NB
Registered Owner:	SHELDON L. POLLACK CORP.	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	SHELDON L. POLLACK CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TUS, 2641 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	48 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2248 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	30 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11 °C / -3 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FRESNO, CA (FAT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	LAS CRUCES, NM (LRU)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1844 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	THOMAS H WILCOX	Report Date:	07/22/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	MIKE WARTH; SCOTTSDALE, AZ JOHN KENT; MOBILE, AL GARY CHEATUM; WICHITA, KS DAVID S HALL; SANTA MONICA, CA		
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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