



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BIG BEAR, CA	Accident Number:	LAX92FA120
Date & Time:	02/16/1992, 1635 PST	Registration:	N60AW
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31T-II	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	7 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PILOTS HAD ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE 5 PAX TO FLY THEM TO A SKI RESORT. THE AIRPLANE OWNER STATED THAT THE PIC, WHO WAS THE COMPANY PILOT, DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO USE THE AIRPLANE, NOR DID THE OWNER KNOW THE PAX. THE AIRPORT AT THE SKI RESORT IS LOCATED IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN AT 6,750 FT MSL. THERE IS NO INSTRUMENT APPROACH. THERE IS NO RECORD OF ANY WEATHER BRIEFINGS. THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH TERRAIN AT ABOUT 6,580 FT MSL APRX 7.5 MI SW OF THE DESTINATION AIRPORT. WEATHER FOR THE AREA WAS: MOUNTAINS LOCALLY OBSCURED 3000 TO 5000 FEET SCATTERED TO BROKEN WITH TOPS TO 9000, AND WIDELY SCATTERED VISIBILITIES BELOW 3 MILES WITH SNOW AND RAIN SHOWERS. EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE AND IMPACT SITE REVEALED THE AIRCRAFT COLLIDED WITH THE BRUSH AND SNOW COVERED 45 DEG SLOPE IN A LEVEL LEFT TURN.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S POOR JUDGEMENT IN CONTINUING VISUAL FLIGHT INTO INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN OBSCURED BY CLOUDS. FACTORS IN THE ACCIDENT WERE: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO OBTAIN A PREFLIGHT WEATHER BRIEFING, THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, AND THE HIGH MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/05/1991
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	15000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N60AW
Model/Series:	PA-31T-II PA-31T-II	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31T-8020051
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/07/1991, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-28
Registered Owner:	ANDREW & WILLIAMSON SALES CO.	Rated Power:	620 hp
Operator:	ANDREW & WILLIAMSON SALES CO.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	L35, 6750 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1620 PST	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Broken / 1000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1700 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-1°C / -3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAN DIEGO, CA (SDM)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	BIG BEAR CITY, CA (L35)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1530 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	5 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	7 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	George E Petterson	Report Date:	08/26/1993
Additional Participating Persons:			
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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