



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	KENNESAW, GA	Accident Number:	ATL84FA248
Date & Time:	08/08/1984, 0732 EDT	Registration:	N98457
Aircraft:	CESSNA 421C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	4 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE ACFT ENTERED CLOUDS AT LOW ALT DURING THE INITIAL CLIMB AFTER TAKEOFF. THEY REPORTED THAT THE ACFT THEN TURNED SHARPLY BACK TOWARD THE ARPT & DESCENDED BELOW THE CLOUDS. IT ROLLED OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CRASH SITE WITH THE WINGS ROCKING. ONE WITNESS SAID THE ACFT 'TURNED OVER 2 OR 3 TIMES' BEFORE IT CRASHED. NO PREIMPACT PART FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS EVIDENT.

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: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

Findings

5. MANEUVER - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. STALL/SPIN - UNCONTROLLED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	43, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/10/1982
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	869 hours (Total, all aircraft), 11 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N98457
Model/Series:	421C 421C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421C0050
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/04/1984, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-L
Registered Owner:	NICHOLS INDUSTRIES CORP.	Rated Power:	375 hp
Operator:	NICHOLS INDUSTRIES CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MGE, 1068 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0712 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	137°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 400 ft agl	Visibility	5 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 400 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KENNESAW, GA (8A4)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0730 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WALTER G STINER	Report Date:	
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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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](#).