



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MESQUITE, NV	Accident Number:	SEA86FA225
Date & Time:	08/25/1986, 2100 PDT	Registration:	N340MV
Aircraft:	CESSNA 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

WHILE EN ROUTE, THE PLT WAS CLEARED TO DEVIATE 20 DEG LEFT OF COURSE TO AVOID THUNDERSTORM (TSTM) ACTIVITY THAT ARTCC RADAR SHOWED WAS RGT OF COURSE. THE PLT RPRTD TURBC, BUT DEMURRED DESCENDING TO A LOWER ALT DESPITE A PIREP OF CLEAR WX BELOW. HE THEN RPRTD 'IN A CELL' WITH TURBC. RADAR & RADIO CONTACT WITH THE ACFT WERE LOST. ANOTHER PLT, WHO FLEW APRX 15 MI FURTHER SOUTH, RPRTD NO WX, BUT SAID THERE WAS EXTREME WX TO THE NORTH WITH NEAR CONSTANT LIGHTNING. SUBSEQUENTLY, N340MV IMPACTED THE GROUND IN A STEEP NOSE-DOWN, LEFT WING LOW ATTITUDE, AFTER A 14,000 FT DSCNT. THE LANDING GEAR WAS EXTENDED WHEN THE PLANE CRASHED. AN EXAM OF THE WRECKAGE REVEALED NO PREIMPACT STRUCTURAL FAILURE OR ACFT COMPONENT MALFUNCTION. ALSO, THE WRECKAGE SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF WEATHER DAMAGE FROM HAIL OR LIGHTNING. HOWEVER, WX INFO SHOWED THERE WAS HIGH ALT TSTM ACTIVITY WITH TURBC IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE MISHAP.

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

Findings

1. IN FLIGHT WEATHER AVOIDANCE ASSISTANCE - INITIATED - ATC PERSONNEL(ARTCC)
2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LIGHTNING
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE(THUNDERSTORMS)

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

7. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - 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:	53, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Gyroplane	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Gyroplane; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/07/1986
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	20000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14 hours (Total, this make and model), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N340MV
Model/Series:	340A 340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	340A0209
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/03/1986, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5990 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	14 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1480 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-N
Registered Owner:	JAMES W. BARNARD	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	JAMES W. BARNARD	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LAS, 2174 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	77 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2051	Direction from Accident Site:	210°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	4 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BURBANK, CA (BUR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	WRAY, CO (2V5)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1930 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	H. D DAILY	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	LEWIS C OLSON; LAS VEGAS, NV B. L JOURNAGAN; WICHITA, KS R. S BOYLE; ARVADA, CO		
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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