



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	Accident Number:	DEN85FA075
Date & Time:	02/11/1985, 1015 MST	Registration:	N6866K
Aircraft:	CESSNA 421C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	6 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PLT WAS FLYING HIS WIFE & HER 4 FRIENDS TO ASPEN, CO FOR A SKI VACATION. WITNESSES REPORTED THAT DURING TAKEOFF, THE RGT BAGGAGE DOOR OPENED. THEY OBSERVED THE ACFT TURN LEFT ONTO A DOWNWIND WITH THE LANDING GEAR EXTENDED. EIGHT WITNESSES REPORTED THE ENG(S) WERE PRODUCING POWER OF VARYING DEGREES; 2 STATED THE LEFT ENG STOPPED RUNNING & 2 REPORTED THE RGT ENG HAD A REDUCTION OF POWER OR RPM. IN THE VICINITY OF WHERE THE PLT WOULD HAVE MADE A BASE TURN, THE ACFT ENTERED A LEFT DESCENDING TURN, COLLIDED WITH THE TOPS OF TREES BESIDE A ROAD, IMPACTED IN THE ROADWAY ON AN EASTERLY HEADING, SLID TO A STOP & BURNED. AN EXAM REVEALED THE GEAR WAS DOWN, THE LEFT PROP WAS FEATHERED & THERE WAS EVIDENCE THE RGT BAGGAGE DOOR WAS OPEN. THE THROTTLE QUADRANT WAS FOUND WITH THE LEFT THROTTLE 2/3 FORWARD, THE RGT THROTTLE FULL AFT, THE LEFT PROP CONTROL IN THE FEATHER POSITION, THE RGT PROP CONTROL FULL FORWARD & THE MIXTURES AT ORNEAR THEIR FORWARD POSITIONS. THE FLT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACFT WERE CONSIDERED NORMAL WITH THE BAGGAGE DOOR OPEN.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) DOOR,CARGO/BAGGAGE - UNLOCKED
3. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) GEAR RETRACTION - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

6. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. THROTTLE/POWER CONTROL - REDUCED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. WRONG PROPELLER FEATHERED - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

9. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/02/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N6866K
Model/Series:	421C 421C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421C1076
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/12/1984, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	301 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1027 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-N
Registered Owner:	SPECIAL COATING SYSTEMS, INC.	Rated Power:	375 hp
Operator:	SPECIAL COATING SYSTEMS, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABQ, 5352 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	60 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	30°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-2° C / -13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ASPEN, CO (ASE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1012 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CORONADO (4AC)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5280 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4020 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Precautionary Landing; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	5 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	6 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):

GREG FEITH

Report Date:**Additional Participating Persons:**DALE HORNER; MOBILE, AL
BILL ROSS; WHICHITA, KS
SCOTT BOYLE; BROOMFIELD, CO
TOM KNOOP; DAYTON, OH**Publish Date:****Investigation Docket:**

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