



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	NIGHTMUTE, AK	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC87FA067
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	05/07/1987, 1415 AKD	<b>Registration:</b>	N54265
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-31-350	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

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## Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED WHEN THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK A 350 FOOT HIGH HILL ALONG ITS ROUTE. THIS FLIGHT WAS A PART 135 ON-DEMAND AIR TAXI CARGO FLIGHT. SEVERAL OTHER AIR TAXI OPERATORS AND COMPANY AIRCRAFT ELECTED TO CANCEL THEIR FLIGHTS. BOTH GROUND REPORTS AND PILOT REPORTS STATED THE WEATHER IN THE AREA OF THE ACCIDENT WAS CEILINGS BELOW 500 FEET AND VISIBILITY LESS THAN ONE MILE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
  2. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
  4. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
  5. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial; Private	<b>Age:</b>	40, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	02/07/1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	7040 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model), 6531 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N54265
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	317405213
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	05/03/1987, 100 Hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	6315 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	12 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3750 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	TIO-540-J2BD
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	YUTE AIR SERVICE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	300 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	PHILIP BINGMAN	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	YUTE AIR SERVICE	<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	140°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-1° C / -2° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BETHEL, AK (BET)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1345 AKT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## 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):	JAMES MICHELANGELO	Report Date:	04/25/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	STEVE SMITH; ANCHORAGE, AL WALTER J PIENODY; VERO BEACH, FL JAMES D LA BELLE; ANCHORAGE, AL		
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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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](#).