



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BRIDGEPORT, CA	Accident Number:	LAX87FA239
Date & Time:	06/21/1987, 0133 PDT	Registration:	N662DM
Aircraft:	ROCKWELL 690	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE FLT CONDITIONS FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE TRIP CONSISTED OF A CLEAR, MOONLESS, DARK NIGHT AND THE DEST ARPT WAS IN A MTN VALLEY WITH THE ONLY GROUND REFERENCE LIGHTS THE TOWN ADJACENT TO THE ARPT. WITNESSES SAW THE ACFT OVERFLY THE TOWN AND ARPT AT PATTERN ALT THEN HEAD OUT OVER THE LAKE NORTH OF THE ARPT. ABOUT 1 MILE FROM THE RWY, THE ACFT WAS SEEN TO SUDDENLY PITCH UP, ROLL INVERTED AND DIVE STRAIGHT DOWN INTO THE LAKE. THE ACFT WAS HEADING AWAY FROM THE ONLY GND REF LIGHTS AND WAS OVER A REFLECTIVE BODY OF WATER NEAR THE BASE TURN POINT WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED. WITNESSES HEARD INCREASED ENG/PROP NOISE BEFORE IMPACT. WRECKAGE REVEALED EVIDENCE OF PWR AT IMPACT. THE SHIFTS FOR THE PLTS IN THE OPERATION CONSISTED OF 4 DAYS ON, 2 DAYS OFF, WITH ALTERNATING DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS. THE PLT WAS ON THE 4TH NIGHT OF THE CURRENT SHIFT CYCLE AND WAS ALSO GIVING FLT INSTRUCTION DURING THE DAYS.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (F) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) FLIGHT CONTROLS - INADVERTENT USE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (F) FATIGUE(CIRCADIAN RHYTHM) - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) FATIGUE(FLIGHT AND GROUND SCHEDULE) - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (F) INSUFF STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS,OPERATION/OPERATOR - COMPANY/OPERATOR MGMT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

10. (F) DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	42, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/22/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	9521 hours (Total, all aircraft), 34 hours (Total, this make and model), 8924 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 87 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 51 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	ROCKWELL	Registration:	N662DM
Model/Series:	690 690	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11015
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/02/1987, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	10250 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	37 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	5234 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	GARRETT
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TPE331-5-251K
Registered Owner:	IPM TECHNOLOGY	Rated Power:	717 hp
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	RENO FLYING SERVICE	Operator Designator Code:	IPMA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
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	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	10° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	RENO, NV (RNO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	(057)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0104 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BRYANT FIELD (057)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	6468 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	16	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4400 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEFF RICH	Report Date:	12/21/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	BOB CATES; OKLAHOMA CITY, OK KARL PFITZER; PHOENIX, AZ ROGER STALLKAMP; PIQUA, OH TOM HOWELL; RENO, NV		
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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