



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	Accident Number:	DEN90FA184
Date & Time:	09/11/1990, 0400 MDT	Registration:	N23ST
Aircraft:	Morane-Saulnier MS760	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE PILOT, A HEART TRANSPLANT SURGEON, WAS ADVISED OF A DONOR IN LAS CRUCES, NM. HE AND A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT WERE TO FLY TO LAS CRUCES, RETRIEVE THE DONOR HEART, AND RETURN TO ALBUQUERQUE, WHERE THE TRANSPLANT WAS TO BE PERFORMED. THE PILOT OBTAINED A WEATHER BRIEFING (VMC WAS FORECAST) AND FILED AN IFR FLIGHT PLAN. HE FUELED THE JET AIRCRAFT TO CAPACITY AND TOOK OFF INTO A DARK, CLEAR, MOONLESS NIGHT TOWARDS OPEN, FLAT TERRAIN WITH FEW GROUND LIGHTS. THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED SECONDS LATER. IT IMPACTED THE GROUND IN A LEFT WING/NOSE SLIGHTLY LOW ATTITUDE AT HIGH SPEED. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF PREIMPACT FAILURE/MALFUNCTION OF THE AIRFRAME, ENGINES, INSTRUMENTS, OR CONTROLS. THE PILOT HAD BEEN AWAKE FOR 22 HOURS WITH LITTLE OR NO REST. HE WAS NOT CURRENT FOR NIGHT FLIGHT. HIS IFR CURRENCY COULD NOT BE DETERMINED.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO MAINTAIN A CLIMB AFTER TAKEOFF, DUE TO SPATIAL DISORIENTATION. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: DARKNESS, PILOT FATIGUE, AND THE PILOT'S LACK OF RECENT EXPERIENCE IN NIGHT FLYING OPERATION.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) CLIMB - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF RECENT EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) FATIGUE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/15/1988
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	1372 hours (Total, all aircraft), 56 hours (Total, this make and model), 1193 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Morane-Saulnier	Registration:	N23ST
Model/Series:	MS760 MS760	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	50
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/06/1990, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7720 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Jet
Airframe Total Time:	1108 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	MARBORE VI C2
Registered Owner:	STONEWALL TRANSPORT, INC	Rated Power:	1060 lbs
Operator:	STONEWALL TRANSPORT, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABQ, 5352 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0350 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	95°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19° C / 7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	LAS CRUCES, NM (LCR)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0359 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	DOUBLE EAGLE II (AEG)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5834 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	22	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7398 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Report Date:	06/02/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	DALE HORNER; ALBUQUERQUE, NM KERRY RAY; ALBUQUERQUE, NM STEPHEN IVES; GRAND PRAIRIE, TX JIM MORAN; GRAND PRAIRIE, TX		
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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