



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MCGRATH, AK	Accident Number:	ANC92FA022
Date & Time:	12/22/1991, 1836 AST	Registration:	N6390H
Aircraft:	CESSNA 207	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning

Analysis

THE WRECKAGE WAS LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF HALFWAY MOUNTAIN HEADING APPROXIMATELY 270 DEGREES AT THE 1600 FOOT LEVEL. THE ACCIDENT SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE INITIAL APPROACH FIX FOR THE LOCALIZER/DME RUNWAY 16 APPROACH AT MCGRATH. THE MEA FOR THE DME ARC IS LISTED AS 3600 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL. THE SECTOR OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE ALTITUDE IS LISTED AS 3100 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL. WEATHER FOR THE AREA, AIRMET SIERRA, INDICATED THAT MOUNTAIN TOPS WOULD BE OBSCURED AND THAT CEILINGS WOULD OCCASIONALLY BE 1500 FEET BROKEN. THERE WERE REPORTS OF SNOWSHOWERS IN THE AREA OF SUFFICIENT INTENSITY THAT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE SEARCH AIRCRAFT TO FLY THROUGH THE SNOWSHOWERS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT IN COMMAND'S IMPROPER INFLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION AND HIS ATTEMPT TO FLY VFR THROUGH IMC CONDITIONS. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WERE THE SNOW, WHITEOUT CONDITIONS, AND DARKNESS.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - WHITEOUT
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

4. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	21, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/07/1991
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2015 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1741 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 188 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N6390H
Model/Series:	207 207	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20700507
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/27/1991, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	43 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	11979 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-F17B
Registered Owner:	MARKAIR, INC.	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	MARKAIR EXPRESS INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135); On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	HERA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCG, 337 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1750 AST	Direction from Accident Site:	40°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 1800 ft agl	Visibility	3 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 5000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-21°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	NIKOLAI, AK (5NI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	MCGRATH, AK (MCG)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1820 AST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GEORGE KOBELNYK	Report Date:	03/09/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	ALLEN LEE; ANCHORAGE, AK		
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).