



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ADJUNTAS, PR	Accident Number:	ATL00LA018
Date & Time:	12/23/1999, 1600 EST	Registration:	N1315A
Aircraft:	Cessna 208B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

While en route to the first schedule stop, the pilot heard a radio transmission that weather conditions in the vicinity of his next destination were 'bad.' Upon arriving, the pilot attempted to telephone Flight Service for a weather briefing and to file a flight plan. After efforts to contact Flight Service failed, the pilot elected to takeoff without a filing a flight plan. A few minutes into the flight, the pilot decided to return to the departure airport after the flight encountered deteriorating weather conditions that included heavy turbulence, and low ceilings. The airplane collided with trees as the pilot maneuvered the airplane. The post-accident examination of the airplane failed to disclose a mechanical malfunction or a component failure. The pilot did not report a mechanical problem with the airplane. A review of the en route flight charts disclosed that the terrain elevation at the departure point was approximately 24 feet. The terrain elevation at the approximate location of the accident site was 2,500 feet.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot continued flight into adverse weather conditions that included low ceiling and turbulence. Factors to the accident were trees.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (C) FLIGHT INTO ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

4. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

On December 23, 1999, at 1600 atlantic standard time, a Cessna 208B, N1315A, collided with trees in a heavily wooded area near Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. The air taxi cargo flight was operated by M & N Aviation under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 135 with no flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the nearest weather reporting facility at the time of the accident. The airplane sustained substantial damage. The commercial pilot received minor injuries and his passenger received serious injuries. The flight departed Ponce, Puerto Rico, at 1532.

While en route to Ponce, the pilot heard a radio transmission that weather conditions in the vicinity of his next destination was "bad." Upon arriving in Ponce, the pilot attempted to telephone Flight Service for a weather briefing and to file a flight plan. After efforts to contact Flight Service failed, the pilot elected to takeoff without filing a flight plan. After a few minutes into the flight, the pilot decided to return to Ponce. Reportedly, the flight encountered deteriorating weather conditions that included heavy turbulence, and low ceilings. While attempting to maintain visual contact with the ground the pilot anticipated executing a left turn to avoid colliding with the high terrain. The airplane collided with trees as the pilot maneuvered the airplane.

The post-accident examination of the airplane failed to disclose a mechanical malfunction or a component failure. The pilot did not report a mechanical problem with the airplane. A review of the en route flight charts disclosed that the terrain elevation at the departure point was approximately 24 feet. The terrain elevation at the approximate location of the accident site was 2,500 feet.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	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):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/11/1999
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	1985 hours (Total, all aircraft), 550 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N1315A
Model/Series:	208B 208B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	208-0655
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/02/1999, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1343 Hours	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	1427 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-114A
Registered Owner:	GE CAPITAL CORP OF P.R.	Rated Power:	675 hp
Operator:	M&N AVIATION	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PSE, 24 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1348 AST	Direction from Accident Site:	170°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2500 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	30° C / 19° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PONCE, PR (PSE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	AGUADZILLA, PR (BQN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1532 AST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Report Date:	12/04/2000
Additional Participating Persons:	JORGE D PEREZ; SAN JUAN, PR		
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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