



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SPRINGFIELD, KY	Accident Number:	ATL82FA055
Date & Time:	02/16/1982, 2019 EST	Registration:	N2517X
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31T2	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	8 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE FLT WAS CLEARED TO MAINTAIN 3,000 FT MSL UNTIL OVER THE ARPT, THEN CRUISE. THE PLT HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT HE COULD SEE THE LIGHTS ON THE GROUND & THAT HE WAS 15 MI FROM THE ARPT. AT 2013 THE PLT STATED "WE OUGHTA BE ABLE TO CANCEL HERE." THE ACFT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOUT 6 MI FROM THE ARPT. THE ARPT OPERATOR HEARD AN ACFT LOW OVERHEAD & WAS ABLE TO SEE STARS. OTHER GROUND WITNESSES CLOSER TO THE POINT OF IMPACT OBSERVED VERY THICK PATCHY FOG WITH VISIBILITY ABOUT 200 FT. ONE WITNESS OBSERVED THE ACFT NAVIGATION LIGHTS DO SOME UNUSUAL MANEUVERING, WHILE ANOTHER WITNESS SAW THE LIGHTS VERY LOW. THE ACFT IMPACTED THE GROUND IN A LEFT WING LOW, NEAR LEVEL FLIGHT ATTITUDE. THE WRECKAGE WAS CO-LOCATED WITH AN APPROXIMATE DOWNWIND TO BASE LEG TURN. THERE IS A SINGLE VOR/DME APCH TO RWY 11. THE MDA IS 1,260 FT & REQUIRES A MINIMUM VISIBILITY OF 1 MI. THE CIRCLING APCH HAS AN MDA OF 1,420 FT & ALSO REQUIRES A MINIMUM VISIBILITY OF 1 MI. THE PLT HAD RECEIVED AN ALTIMETER SETTING OF 29.77. THE ACFT'S ALTIMETER WAS SET BETWEEN 30.29 & 30.30.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE TURN

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. (C) ABORTED LANDING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) ALTIMETER SETTING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	32, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/11/1981
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N2517X
Model/Series:	PA-31T2 PA-31T2	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	21T-8166004
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9474 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	140 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-135
Registered Owner:	GNC ENERGY CORP.	Rated Power:	620 hp
Operator:	GNC ENERGY CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument 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:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	/ 0° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MOBILE, AL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	SPRINGFIELD, KY	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	LEBANON-SPRINGFIELD (6I2)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	4000 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	7 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	8 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Report Date:	02/16/1983
Additional Participating Persons:		
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.ntsb.gov/pubdms/ .	

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