



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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| Location: | FT. PIERCE, FL | Accident Number: | MIA82FLD15 |
| Date & Time: | 02/06/1982, 2115 EST | Registration: | N747CE |
| Aircraft: | PIPER PA-31 | Aircraft Damage: | Destroyed |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 2 Serious |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - | | |

Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED AT NIGHT NEAR A PRIVATE STRIP IN MARGINAL WEATHER CONDITIONS. THE GEAR WAS FOUND IN THE UP POSITION, THE RIGHT ENGINE WAS BROKEN OFF, THE NOSE SECTION WAS CRUSHED BACK TO THE WINDSHIELD, AND BOTH PROPELLERS WERE BENT AND TWISTED. ABOUT 1300 LBS OF MARIJUANA WAS FOUND ON BOARD.

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: UNKNOWN

Findings

1. (F) STOLEN AIRCRAFT/UNAUTHORIZED USE - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 42, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea | Seat Occupied: | Unknown |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | Helicopter | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | |
| Medical Certification: | Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim. | Last FAA Medical Exam: | 12/08/1981 |
| Occupational Pilot: | | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | PIPER | Registration: | N747CE |
| Model/Series: | PA-31 PA-31 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | | Serial Number: | 31673 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Retractable - Tricycle | Seats: | 6 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | Unknown | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 6500 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 15 Hours | Engines: | 2 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 5211 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | LYCOMING |
| ELT: | Installed | Engine Model/Series: | TIO-540 |
| Registered Owner: | AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CORPORATI | Rated Power: | 310 hp |
| Operator: | AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CORPORATI | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Instrument Conditions | Condition of Light: | Night/Dark |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | VRB, 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 | 2 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | Overcast / 900 ft agl | Visibility (RVR): | 0 ft |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 10 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 360° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 65° C / 0° C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | | | |
| Departure Point: | MONTEGA BAY, JA | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | VFR |
| Destination: | FR. LAUDERDALE, FL | Type of Clearance: | |
| Departure Time: | 1426 | Type of Airspace: | |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

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|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Report Date: | 02/06/1983 |
| 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.nts.gov/pubdms/ . | |

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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](#).