



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CHARLOTTE, NC	Accident Number:	ATL84FA044
Date & Time:	11/15/1983, 0236 EST	Registration:	N6459L
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-300	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE ACFT WAS FIRST RADAR IDENTIFIED ABOUT 18 MI NORTH OF THE ARPT & WAS GIVEN RADAR VECTORS FOR A RIGHT DOWNWIND & BASE TO RWY 36R. WHILE ON A DOWNWIND HEADING 150 DEG, THE PLT WAS ASSIGNED A HEADING OF 270 DEG & WAS QUERIED IF THE ARPT WAS IN SIGHT. THE PLT RESPONDED '...WE GOT IT.' HOWEVER, RADAR DATA SHOWS THE ACFT CONTINUING THE TURN THROUGH 270 DEG TO ABOUT 350 DEG. AFTER ABOUT 1/2 MI, THE ACFT TURNED LEFT TO 250 DEG DESCENDING. THE TURN CONTINUED TO A SW HEADING APPROXIMATELY ALIGNED WITH A CITY STREET THAT PASSES SOUTH OF THE ARPT ON A COURSE OF 250 DEG. THE ALTITUDE DECREASED WITH A CONSISTENT RATE TO 900 FT WHEN RADAR CONTACT WAS LOST. ELEV AT THE APCH END OF RWY 36R IS 724 FT. WRECKAGE DISTRIBUTION WAS ALONG A 245 DEG HEADING. A FLT INSPECTION OF THE RWY 36R EDGE LIGHTS AT NIGHT DURING VFR CONDITIONS INDICATED THE LIGHTS WERE NOT VISIBLE BEYOND 30 DEG OF THE RWY CENTERLINE. THE PLT GOT UP AT 0730 ON 11/14.

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

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	53, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/15/1983
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	13950 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1870 hours (Total, this make and model), 11550 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 294 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 96 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N6459L
Model/Series:	PA-31-300 PA-31-300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-415
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/13/1983, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	96 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7267 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-M1A5
Registered Owner:	SOUTHEAST AIRMOTIVE CORP.	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	SOUTHEAST AIRMOTIVE CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CLT, 749 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0250 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	4 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 2100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	80°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7° C / 6° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	WINSTON SALEM, NC (INT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	
Departure Time:	0240 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL (CLT)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	749 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	36R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7845 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JOHN B DRAKE	Report Date:	
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 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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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](#).