



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	DORSET, VT	Accident Number:	NYC85FA083
Date & Time:	03/17/1985, 2015 EST	Registration:	N12CQ
Aircraft:	CESSNA 401A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Analysis

THE PLT WAS ABOUT 30 MILES FROM RUTLAND WHEN HE RADIOED THE ARPT FOR WEATHER INFO. HE WAS INFORMED THAT CLOUDS WERE 1500 FT BROKEN AND 2700 FT OVERCAST WITH SNOW, LIGHT FOG AND 5 MILES VISIBILITY. THE PLT RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD CALL AGAIN WHEN HE GOT CLOSER TO THE ARPT. THERE WAS NO FURTHER TRANSMISSION RECEIVED FROM THE PLT. THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH DORSET MT, LOCATED ABOUT 18 MILES SOUTH OF THE ARPT. THE ACFT WAS IN A LEVEL ATTITUDE AND AT A ELEVATION OF 3300 FT. DORSET MT IS 3515 FT HIGH. EXAMINATION OF THE ACFT DID NOT DISCLOSE EVIDENCE OF MALFUNCTION. NO FLT PLAN WAS FILED.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) PREFLIGHT BRIEFING SERVICE - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
3. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
6. (F) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
8. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	45, 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):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	01/07/1985
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4946 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3149 hours (Total, this make and model), 4771 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N12CQ
Model/Series:	401A 401A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	401A116
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/09/1984, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3062 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520
Registered Owner:	CULEN AND HAMILTON	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	CULEN AND HAMILTON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual 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	5 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-6° C / -18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	CALDWELL, NJ (CDW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	RUTLAND, VT (RUT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1839 EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	RUTLAND STATE (RUT)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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):	DENNIS L JONES	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	DAVE RAMSBOTHAM; PORTLAND, ME DOUGLAS WHEELER; STATE OF, VT DALE CARTER; MOBILE, AL BRIAN HANCOCK; WICHITA, KS		
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](#).