



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PORT HEIDEN, AK	Accident Number:	ANC85FA047
Date & Time:	02/14/1985, 1900 AST	Registration:	N63719
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry

Analysis

THIS FLT ORIGINATED NEAR BECHAROF LAKE AND WAS DESTINED FOR COLD BAY. ACFT CRASHED INTO THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN AT THE 7500 FT LEVEL, 23 MILES LEFT OF COURSE. MARGINAL WEATHER CONDITIONS EXISTED INCLUDING A 35 KT RIGHT X-WIND. PLT HAD FLOWN THE SAME ROUTE ABOUT 1 HR PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT. COMPANY VFR FLT PLAN WAS FILED. ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT SUNSET.

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: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
4. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
8. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
9. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/30/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4427 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2250 hours (Total, this make and model), 4239 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 148 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 48 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N63719
Model/Series:	PA-31 PA-31	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	7712042
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/05/1985, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	23 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4284 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-A2C
Registered Owner:	PENINSULA AIRWAYS	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	PENINSULA AIRWAYS	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	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:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BECHAROF LAKE 1, AK (XAB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	COLD BAY, AK (CDB)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1807 AST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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):	ROY C DAW	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	KENT ADAMS; ANCHORAGE, AK		
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/ .		

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](#).