



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	S. LAKE TAHOE, CA	Accident Number:	SEA86FA046
Date & Time:	01/27/1986, 0720 PST	Registration:	N988JM
Aircraft:	CESSNA 401	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

ACFT TOOK OFF IN CLEAR WX BUT BELOW-FREEZING TEMPS WITH HEAVY FROST ON ACFT SURFACES. NO PREFLIGHT, RUN-UP OR WARM-UP PERFORMED. ON INITIAL CLIMB, LEFT ENG POWER LOSS OCCURRED FOR UNDET REASON, BUT PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH TEMP/COLD ENG OPERATION. PLT TURNED INTO DEAD ENGINE IN APPARENT COURSE REVERSAL, FAILED TO FEATHER PROPELLER AND LOWERED LNDG GEAR DURING TURN. ACFT STALLED, ROLLED INVERTED AND CRASHED INTO RESIDENTIAL AREA. ENGINE TEARDOWN REVEALED NO MECHANICAL DEFECTS. POST-MORTEM AND TOX TESTS REVEALED NO PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPAIRMENT.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TEMPERATURE EXTREMES
 3. (C) MISCELLANEOUS - UNDETERMINED
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

4. (F) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE,ENGINE OUT CAPABILITY - DETERIORATED
 5. (F) ICE/FROST REMOVAL FROM AIRCRAFT - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 6. (F) GEAR EXTENSION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 7. (F) PROPELLER FEATHERING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 8. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/29/1984
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	4400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N988JM
Model/Series:	401 401	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	0305
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/04/1985, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5860 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-E
Registered Owner:	CHARLES R. MADDOX	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	CHARLES R. MADDOX	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TVL, 6264 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0750	Direction from Accident Site:	150°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 7000 ft agl	Visibility	40 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-6 °C / -6 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	S. LAKE TAHOE, CA (TVL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ST. GEORGE, UT (SGU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0720 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	UNKNOWN DAILY	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	PAUL E HINMAN; RENO, NV R. S BOYLE; ARVADA, CO GERALD S SHOEMAKER; 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 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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