



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	BASALT, CO	Accident Number:	DEN87FA066
Date & Time:	03/12/1987, 1839 MST	Registration:	N4581E
Aircraft:	Rockwell 680FL	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

N4581E WAS OPERATING UNDER 14 CFR 135 CARRYING CARGO. THE PLT STATED THAT HE DEPARTED VFR AND HAD '7 TO 10' MI VIS AT THE ACDT SITE. WITNESSES AT AND NEAR THE ACDT SITE STATED THAT HEAVY SNOW WAS FALLING AT THE TIME OF THE ACDT AND THE VIS WAS 1 MI OR LESS. THE ACFT STRUCK A 2 STORY DUPLEX IN A LT WING LOW ATTITUDE, 18 FT AGL. POST CRASH EXAM OF THE ACFT AND ENGINES REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF MECH MALFUNCTION OR FAILURE. THE PLT HAD BEEN GROUNDED FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS PRIOR TO THE ACDT DUE TO MED PROBLEMS. THERE WAS NO RECORD THAT INDICATED THE PLT HAD BEEN ROUTE CHECKED FOR OPS AT ASPEN.

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: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
3. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
5. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - REDUCED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - OBSCURATION
7. (C) ALTITUDE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN
9. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

10. OBJECT - RESIDENCE
11. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH GEOGRAPHIC AREA - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	32, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/01/1986
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	4424 hours (Total, all aircraft), 104 hours (Total, this make and model), 4091 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Rockwell	Registration:	N4581E
Model/Series:	680FL 680FL	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1672134
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/20/1987, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	19 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4267 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IGSO-540-B1A
Registered Owner:	HARRY B COMBS, JR.	Rated Power:	380 hp
Operator:	ENERGY AIR CHARTERS OF MT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	AIR PARCEL	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ASE, 6866 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1827 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	130°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	6 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 1800 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	320°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-1 °C / -3 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ASPEN, CO (ASE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	DENVER, CO (DEN)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1836 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GREGORY A FEITH	Report Date:	05/02/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	DAVE GONZALES; AURORA, CO		
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](#).