



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MT. TORBET, AK	Accident Number:	ANC88FA111
Date & Time:	08/17/1988, 2003 AKD	Registration:	N5718M
Aircraft:	CESSNA 402B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE ON-DEMAND-CHARTER FLIGHT WAS TO ORIGINALLY PICKUP PASSENGERS AND CARGO BUT A LANDING GEAR PROBLEM FORCED ANOTHER AIRPLANE WITH A MECHANIC TO BE DISPATCHED. THE OTHER AIRPLANE RETURNED WITH THE PASSENGERS AND THE ACCIDENT AIRPLANE WAS REPAIRED BY THE MECHANIC AND DEPARTED AT A LATER TIME WITH THE CARGO ON BOARD. THE AIRPLANE WAS NOT ON A FLIGHT PLAN. INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS PREVAILED FROM 7000 FEET MSL TO 12,500 FEET MSL AS REPORTED BY THE OTHER COMPANY AIRPLANE. THE AIRCRAFT WAS FOUND ON THE SIDE OF MT. TORBERT AT THE 10,570 FOOT LEVEL. THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND WAS FOUND IN THE RIGHT PILOT SEAT WITH A NON-AVIATION RELATED BOOK IN HIS LAP. THE MECHANIC WAS FOUND IN THE LEFT PILOT SEAT WITH A WORLD AERONAUTICAL CHART, CD-11 OPEN ON HIS LAP. THE MECHANIC HELD A COMMERCIAL PILOTS CERTIFICATE BUT NO INSTRUMENT RATING. THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED WEAKNESSES IN COMPANY OPERATIONS.

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: DESCENT

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - WHITEOUT
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - ATTEMPTED - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
5. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) INSUFFICIENT STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS,AIRMAN - COMPANY/OPERATOR MGMT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	27, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/17/1988
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3452 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1248 hours (Total, this make and model), 202 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 156 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5718M
Model/Series:	402B 402B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	402B0354
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	10
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/16/1988, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3051 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-E
Registered Owner:	WILBURS INC.	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	WILBURS INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135); On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	WILBURS FLIGHT OPERATIONS	Operator Designator Code:	EMSA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
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	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	50 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SLEETMUTE, AK (SLQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ANCHORAGE, AK (MRI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1830 ADT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GEORGE KOBELNYK	Report Date:	12/03/1989
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 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](#).