



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ALBERTVILLE, AL	Accident Number:	ATL84FA274
Date & Time:	08/31/1984, 0810 CDT	Registration:	N55LP
Aircraft:	CESSNA 402C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

PLT WAS EXECUTING AN NON-DIRECTIONAL BEACON APPROACH TO RWY 23. INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS PREVAILED AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. RADAR INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE PLT DID NOT STABILIZE THE AIRSPEED WHILE EXECUTING THE APPROACH. WITNESSES NEAR THE ACCIDENT SITE INDICATED THEY HAD HEARD A LOW FLYING ACFT AT THE APRX TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THE WRECKAGE PATH REVEALED A GRADUAL DESCENT SWATH IN THE TREES WHICH TERMINATED WITH GROUND IMPACT. WITNESSES NEAR THE ARPT STATED THAT THE ARPT WAS OBSCURED BY FOG.

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: APPROACH - FAF/OUTER MARKER TO THRESHOLD (IFR)

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (F) NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) MINIMUM DESCENT ALTITUDE - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) DECISION HEIGHT - DISREGARDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) AIRSPEED - UNCONTROLLED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/23/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	7500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N55LP
Model/Series:	402C 402C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	402C0102
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	10
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/11/1984, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	54 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5319 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-VB
Registered Owner:	PETERSON INDUSTRIES	Rated Power:	325 hp
Operator:	PETERSON INDUSTRIES	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HSV, 629 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	35 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0805 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	320°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DECATUR, AR (5M5)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	ALBERTVILLE, AL (8A0)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0554 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ALBERTVILLE MUNICIPAL (8A0)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1035 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	23	IFR Approach:	ADF/NDB
Runway Length/Width:	4800 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PRESTON HICKS	Report Date:	
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 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](#).