



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LITTLE AMERICA, WY	Accident Number:	DEN84MA266
Date & Time:	08/25/1984, 1030 MDT	Registration:	N9150N
Aircraft:	AERO COMMANDER 690	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	4 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

ABOUT 10 MIN AFTER TAKEOFF AT 1005 MDT, THE PLT WAS CLEARED TO CLIMB TO FL 190. THIS WAS ATC'S LAST COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACFT. AT 1030:39, THE CONTROLLER ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THE PLT TO ADVISE THAT HE HAD LOST RADAR CONTACT & TO RECYCLE THE TRANSPONDER & SQUAWK 6062. THERE WAS NO RESPONSE. TWO WITNESSES REPORTED SEEING THE ACFT JUST BEFORE IT IMPACTED THE GROUND. ACCORDING TO THEM, THEY SAW FIRE &/OR AN EXPLOSION BEFORE IMPACT & ONE WITNESS REPORTED THE ACFT BROKE UP AFTER IT CAME BELOW AN ESTIMATED 1000 TO 1200 FT CEILING. HOWEVER, THE WRECKAGE WAS SCATTERED OVER A 2 MI AREA. AN EXAM REVEALED EVIDENCE OF A CATASTROPHIC IN-FLT BREAKUP FROM OVERLOAD WHICH INCLUDED POSITIVE OVERLOAD OF BOTH WINGS. RADAR DATA SHOWED THAT JUST BEFORE RADAR CONTACT WAS LOST, THE ACFT'S SPEED VARIED BETWEEN 221 & 272 KTS, HEADING VARIED FROM 072 TO 014 DEG & VERTICAL VELOCITY VARIED FROM +300 TO -2400 FT/MIN. THUNDERSTORMS, TURBC, RAIN & CLD TOPS TO 25,000' WERE REPORTED. PROBABLE LGT TO MOD ICING IN CLDS ABOVE THE FREEZING LVL (14,000'). ACFT HAD WX RADAR ABOARD.

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: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE IN CLOUDS
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - ICING CONDITIONS
7. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

8. AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED

Occurrence #3: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

9. DESIGN STRESS LIMITS OF AIRCRAFT - EXCEEDED
10. WING - OVERLOAD
11. FUEL SYSTEM, TANK - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #4: FIRE
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Occurrence #5: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/21/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3410 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO COMMANDER	Registration:	N9150N
Model/Series:	690 690	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11063
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/14/1984, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	10250 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	GARRETT
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TPE 331
Registered Owner:	DR. JAMES P. DEMETRY	Rated Power:	718 hp
Operator:	DR. JAMES P. DEMETRY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RKS, 6760 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	57 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1100 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	70°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 1200 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:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21° C / 10° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	OGDEN, UT (OGD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	AURORA, IL (ARR)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0955 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	In-Flight
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	BLAIN ROBBINS; BROOMFIELD, CO BOB CATES; GULFSTREAM, OK RUDY LUCERO; OKLAHOMA CITY, OK KARL P PFITZER; PHOENIX, AR		
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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