



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CARTERSVILLE, GA	Accident Number:	ATL85FA097
Date & Time:	02/12/1985, 0510 EST	Registration:	N18AW
Aircraft:	BEECH H18	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning

Analysis

THE FLT HAD NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED WHEN THE PLT RETIRED FOR THE EVENING AT 2230 TO 2300 EST. AT 0230, HE WAS AWOKEN & NOTIFIED TO MAKE A NGT CARGO FLT. THE OWNER OBTAINED A WX BRIEFING & FILED A FLT PLAN, THEN BRIEFED THE PLT LATER. THE PLT ARRIVED AT THE ARPT AT 0430. HE PREFLIGHTED THE ACFT WHILE THE OWNER UPDATED THE WX BRIEFING. THE ACFT WAS CLEARED AS FILED WITH A CLEARANCE VOID TIME OF 0500; THE CLEARANCE WAS RADIOED TO THE PLT BY UNICOM. DURING TAKEOFF, AT 0510, THE ACFT WAS OBSERVED CLIMBING NORTHBOUND TO APRX 800' AGL IN MODERATE SNOWFALL WITH THE LANDING LGT ON. A SHORT TIME LATER, THE ACFT CRASHED APRX 1 MI NE OF THE ARPT WHILE IN A STEEP NOSE DOWN, RGT WING LOW ATTITUDE. NO PRE- IMPACT PART FAILURE/MALFUNCTION WAS FOUND. REPORTEDLY, WHEN THE PLT 1ST HIRED ON, HE EXAGGERATED HIS FLT EXPERIENCE; HE HAD PROBLEMS WITH INSTRUMENT FLYING & WAS NOT SCHEDULED FOR FLTS IN MARGINAL WX; & HE WAS GIVEN EXTRA HELP. AT THE TIME OF THE ACDNT, SNW WAS FALLING, MIXED ICING WAS FORCAST IN CLDS & THERE WAS A SIGMET FOR MOD TO SVR TURBC BELOW 8000'.

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: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (F) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
2. (F) COMPANY-INDUCED PRESSURE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
3. (F) FATIGUE(FLIGHT SCHEDULE) - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
8. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
9. (F) LANDING LIGHTS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
10. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

11. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
12. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
13. AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	41, 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 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/17/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2313 hours (Total, all aircraft), 183 hours (Total, this make and model), 119 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N18AW
Model/Series:	H18 H18	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	BA-644
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/15/1985, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	8 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6468 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R-985-14B
Registered Owner:	PHOENIX AIR, INC.	Rated Power:	450 hp
Operator:	PHOENIX AIR, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
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	4 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-4° C / -18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	ATLANTA, GA (ATL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0510 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CARTERSVILLE-BARTOW CO (6A0)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	756 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Ice; Snow--dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4000 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JOHN B DRAKE	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	KEN BRANTLEY; ATLANTA, GA WILLIAM DUNCAN; ATLANTA, GA DAN BENNETT; ATLANTA, GA JOHN WARD; 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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