

# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location: CENTRAL POINT, OR Accident Number: SEA85FA056

Date & Time: 02/09/1985, 1248 PST Registration: N233W

Aircraft: Gulfstream AC-680F Aircraft Damage: Destroyed

Defining Event: Injuries: 4 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled

### **Analysis**

THE PLT REPORTED A LOSS OF POWER ON BOTH ENGS DURING DESCENT TO LAND. APRX 3 MINS PRIOR, TWR GAVE PLT OPTION OF 'STRAIGHT-IN' TO RWY 14 OR REG PATTERN TO RWY 32. THE PLT HESITATED & SAID 'JUST A MINUTE' & TWR OFFERED WIND INFO AS '210 AT 13.' PLT REPLIED, 'KAY.' APRX 1 MIN LATER PLT SAID '33W WILL MAKE A LEFT BASE FOR 14.' TWR CLEARED HIM & DECLARED VISUAL CONTACT. PLT ACKNOWLEDGED '3WHISKEY.' ONE MIN & 54 SECS LATER, PLT DECLARED PWR LOSS & EMERG. TWR ROGERED. SEVEN SECS LATER, PLT SAID 'GONNA HIT IT' FOLLOWED 2 SECS LATER WITH AN UNITELLIGIBLE COMMENT. WITNESSES SAW THE ACFT GLIDING WINGS LVL TOWARD RWY WHEN A LOUD 'REV' WAS HEARD, THE ACFT PITCHED UP & ROLLED LEFT TO AN INVERTED POSITION BEFORE GROUND CONTACT & EXPLOSION. POST ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION DID NOT DISCLOSE ANY ENG OR FUEL SYSTEM MALFUNCTION. THIS ACFT HAD EXPERIENCED A PWR LOSS AFTER DESCENDING FROM 15500 TO 12000 FT MSL ON 2/2/85 WITH THE SAME PLT AS REPORTED BY THE CO-PLT ON THAT FLT. AFTER APRX 1 1/2 MINUTES PWR WAS RESTORED.

### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### **Findings**

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

#### **Findings**

- 1. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES NOT FOLLOWED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 2. (C) PERFORMANCE DATA NOT UNDERSTOOD PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION NOT UNDERSTOOD PILOT IN COMMAND
- 4. (C) IMPROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT/AIRCRAFT PILOT IN COMMAND
- 5. (F) ANXIETY/APPREHENSION PILOT IN COMMAND
- 6. (F) ACFT/EQUIP, INADEQUATE AIRCRAFT MANUALS MANUFACTURER
- 7. (F) FUEL SYSTEM UNDETERMINED

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

### **Findings**

8. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

#### **Findings**

- 9. (C) AIRSPEED(VMC) NOT MAINTAINED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 10. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL NOT MAINTAINED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 11. (C) THROTTLE/POWER CONTROL NOT CORRECTED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 12. (C) MANEUVER UNCONTROLLED PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### **Findings**

13. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD

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# **Factual Information**

### **Pilot Information**

| Certificate:              | Flight Instructor; Commercial  | Age:                              | 65, Male   |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Airplane Rating(s):       | Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine<br>Sea; Single-engine Land   | Seat Occupied:                    | Left       |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None   | Restraint Used:                   |            |
| Instrument Rating(s):     | Airplane   | Second Pilot Present:             | Yes        |
| Instructor Rating(s):     | Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane<br>Single-engine; Glider   | Toxicology Performed:             | Yes        |
| Medical Certification:    | Class 2 Valid Medicalw/waivers/lim.  | Last FAA Medical Exam:            | 11/03/1984 |
| Occupational Pilot:       |  | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: |            |
| Flight Time:              | 9867 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 9867 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 42 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                                   |            |

# Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| Aircraft Make:                | Gulfstream               | Registration:                     | N233W                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Model/Series:                 | AC-680F AC-680F          | Aircraft Category:                | Airplane                 |
| Year of Manufacture:          |                          | Amateur Built:                    | No                       |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Normal                   | Serial Number:                    | 680F1284129              |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Retractable - Tricycle   | Seats:                            | 6                        |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 12/20/1984, Annual       | Certified Max Gross Wt.:          | 8000 lbs                 |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   | 167 Hours                | Engines:                          | 2 Reciprocating          |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 3535 Hours               | Engine Manufacturer:              | LYCOMING                 |
| ELT:                          | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series:              | IGSO-540-B1A             |
| Registered Owner:             | MERCY FLIGHTS, INC.      | Rated Power:                      | 380 hp                   |
| Operator:                     | MERCY FLIGHTS, INC.      | Operating Certificate(s)<br>Held: | On-demand Air Taxi (135) |
|                               |                          |                                   |                          |

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual Conditions       | Condition of Light:                  | Day              |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | MFR, 1331 ft msl        | Distance from Accident Site:         | 1 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time:                | 1250 PST                | Direction from Accident Site:        | 166°             |
| Lowest Cloud Condition:          | Scattered / 2500 ft agl | Visibility                           | 30 Miles         |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | Overcast / 5500 ft agl  | Visibility (RVR):                    | 0 ft             |
| Wind Speed/Gusts:                | 11 knots /              | Turbulence Type<br>Forecast/Actual:  | /                |
| Wind Direction:                  | 220°                    | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | 1                |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 30 inches Hg            | Temperature/Dew Point:               | 7°C / -1°C       |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   |                         |                                      |                  |
| Departure Point:                 | GOLD BEACH, OR (4S1)    | Type of Flight Plan Filed:           | IFR              |
| Destination:                     | MEDFORD, OR (MFR)       | Type of Clearance:                   | IFR              |
| Departure Time:                  | 1216 PST                | Type of Airspace:                    | Class D; Class E |
|                                  |                         |                                      |                  |

## **Airport Information**

| Airport:             | MEDFORD-JACKSON COUNTY (MFR) | Runway Surface Type:      | Asphalt                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Airport Elevation:   | 1331 ft                      | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry                                |
| Runway Used:         | 14                           | IFR Approach:             | None                               |
| Runway Length/Width: | 6700 ft / 150 ft             | VFR Approach/Landing:     | Forced Landing; Traffic<br>Pattern |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

| Crew Injuries:      | 3 Fatal | Aircraft Damage:     | Destroyed |
|---------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------|
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 Fatal | Aircraft Fire:       | On-Ground |
| . a                 |         | 7 0. 0 0. 0.         |           |
| Ground Injuries:    | N/A     | Aircraft Explosion:  | On-Ground |
| Total Injuries:     | 4 Fatal | Latitude, Longitude: |           |

## Administrative Information

| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | STEVEN A MCCREARY                                | Report Date:   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Additional Participating Persons: | W. GREENE; HILLSBORO, OR<br>A FOX; HILLSBORO, OR |  |
| Publish Date:                     |  |  |
| Investigation Docket:             | investigations. Dockets released prior to June   | permanent archival information for the NTSB's e 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after by/pubdms/. |

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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.

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