



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WHITEFIELD, NH	Accident Number:	NYC85FA060
Date & Time:	02/01/1985, 2025 EST	Registration:	N27522
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-350	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	4 Fatal, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE ACFT CRASHED AFTER EXECUTING A MISSED APPROACH AT WHITEFIELD DURING IMC WX. THE ACFT WAS SEEN AT 300-400 FT AGL DURING SOME PART OF THE MANEUVERING NEAR THE ARPT. THE ACFT SEEMED TO BE HEADING FOR THE ARPT WHEN LAST SEEN BY GROUND OBSERVERS. THE ONLY INDICATION OF TROUBLE WAS THE LOW ALT. OF FLT. THE ACFT CRASHED AT THE 2800 FT LEVEL OF TWIN MT ON A HDG OF 120 DEG AT 2035 HRS. IT WAS LAST SEEN ABOUT 2015 HOURS. NO FUEL WAS FOUND IN THE ENG FUEL DIVIDERS OR FUEL LINES. THE INBOARD TANKS WERE MORE THAN HALF FULL OF FUEL. NORMAL OPERATION CALLS FOR TAKEOFF, CLIMB & DESCENT ON THE INBOARD TANKS. THE OUTBOARD TANKS ARE USED FOR NON-MANEUVERING FLT DURING CRUISE.

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(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: MISSED APPROACH (IFR)

Findings

1. (F) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	37, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/05/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N27522
Model/Series:	PA-31-350 PA-31-350	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	317852040
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	9
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/15/1985, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	48 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1900 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	LIO-540-52BD
Registered Owner:	AIR TRENDS, INC.	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	LADCO, 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:	2025	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 2000 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:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BURLINGTON, VT (BTV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	WHITEFIELD, NH (HIE)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1959 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class B

Airport Information

Airport:	WHITEFIELD (HIE)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1074 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow--dry
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	ADF/NDB
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	MICHAEL T KUZENKO	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	E JOHNSON; PORTLAND, ME		
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.ntsb.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](#).