



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	FORT COLLINS, CO	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN85FA240
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/12/1985, 0020 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N45724
<b>Aircraft:</b>	AERO COMMANDER 680FL	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

## Analysis

THE PLT WAS OPERATING HIS ACFT UNDER THE RULES OF 14 CFR 135, I.E., A SCHEDULED DOMESTIC CARGO FLT. HE MADE A NORMAL DEPARTURE AND CLIMB EN ROUTE TO SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS AND RADAR FLT FOLLOWING WAS ESTABLISHED WITH DENVER ARTCC. APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES WEST OF FORT COLLINS, THE ACFT SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED OFF OF RADAR AND VOICE CONTACT WITH THE PILOT WAS LOST.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

### Findings

1. LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
3. WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

4. REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	36, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Multi-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	02/18/1985
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>		
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3554 hours (Total, all aircraft), 43 hours (Total, this make and model), 3426 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	AERO COMMANDER	<b>Registration:</b>	N45724
<b>Model/Series:</b>	680FL 680FL	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	680FL1291Z
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	08/09/1985, 100 Hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	8500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	96 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	9535 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IGSO-540-B1A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	INTER AMERICAN LEASING CO.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	380 hp
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	AIR PARCEL EXPRESS	<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FCL, 5015 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0145 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	280°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C / 15° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FORT COLLINS, CO (FCL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	SALT LAKE CITY, UT (SLC)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	2340 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

## Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		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:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	VERLIN B TRANTER	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	A C MCDONALD; AURORA, CO BOB EATES; BETHANY, OK CLIFTON PATTY; 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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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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](#).