



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CRAWFORD, CO	Accident Number:	DEN86FA259
Date & Time:	09/25/1986, 1740 MDT	Registration:	N6663G
Aircraft:	CESSNA 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	5 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE PLT TOOK OFF ON A VFR FLT WITH NO FLT PLAN FILED OR WX BRIEFING. HE ENCOUNTERED A WX SQUALL LINE EN ROUTE WITH LOW CEILINGS, FOG, MIXED RAIN AND SNOW. WHILE HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO MANEUVER VFR THROUGH THE WX AT A LOW ALTITUDE ABOVE THE GROUND, THE ACFT ENTERED CLOUDS AND IMPACTED TERRAIN AT 7,500 FEET MSL IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN.

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: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
6. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) HAZARDOUS WEATHER ADVISORY - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

9. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
10. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/22/1986
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	2241 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1420 hours (Total, this make and model), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 21 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N6663G
Model/Series:	340A 340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	340A0693
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/01/1986, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5975 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	88 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1560 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-NB
Registered Owner:	ANDREW H. CHRISTENSEN	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	ANDREW H. CHRISTENSEN	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MTJ, 5759 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1750 MDT	Direction from Accident Site:	220°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4000 ft agl	Visibility	30 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 10000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	30°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7° C / 2° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GUNNISON, CO (GUC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	GRAND JUNCTION, CO (GJT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1720 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	4 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	5 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PRENTISS E MANGUM	Report Date:
Additional Participating Persons:	THORVILLE SMITH; SALT LAKE CITY, UT JERRY NAEKEL; SALT LAKE CITY, UT SCOTT BOYLE; ARVADA, CO BRIAN HANCOCK; 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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.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](#).