



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	HAMILTON TWP., NJ	Accident Number:	NYC88FA087
Date & Time:	02/19/1988, 2202 EST	Registration:	N27400
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31-325	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT DISAPPEARED FROM RADAR AT APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FINAL ON A NIGHT ILS RWY 13 APPROACH. RADAR DATA INDICATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT COMPLETED ALMOST 180 DEGREES OF TURN PRIOR TO DISAPPEARING. THE AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN A HEAVILY WOODED AREA. NO EVIDENCE OF A PRE-EXISTING FAILURE ON THE ENGINES OR AIRFRAME WAS FOUND. WHEN THE FLYING HISTORY OF THE PILOT WAS EXAMINED, THE HOURS PRESENTED ON HIS RESUME EXCEEDED HIS LOG BOOK AND HIS LOG BOOK HOURS COULD NOT BE TOTALLY VERIFIED. THE CO-PILOT DID NOT HAVE AN INSTRUMENT RATING. THE PILOT THAT PRECEDED THE ACCIDENT AIRCRAFT ON THE APPROACH SAID HE EXPERIENCED MODERATE TURBULENCE, WIND SHEAR AND THAT THE APPROACH LIGHTS WERE VERY DISTRACTING. THE PILOT HAD RECEIVED A WEATHER BRIEFING WHICH INCLUDED WIND SHEAR AND MODERATE TURBULENCE.

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: APPROACH - FAF/OUTER MARKER TO THRESHOLD (IFR)

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
 2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - WINDSHEAR
 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
 4. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 6. (F) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
 7. (F) LACK OF TOTAL INSTRUMENT TIME - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
 8. (F) INADEQUATE SURVEILLANCE OF OPERATION - COMPANY/OPERATOR MGMT
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

9. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	22, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/29/1987
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	1115 hours (Total, all aircraft), 135 hours (Total, this make and model), 813 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 218 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 62 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N27400
Model/Series:	PA-31-325 PA-31-325	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31-7712093
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/10/1988, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	18 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2909 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-F2BD
Registered Owner:	J.R. KENNARD & ASSOCIATES	Rated Power:	325 hp
Operator:	ATLANTIC CITY AIR TAXI	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	EGQA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ACY, 70 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2200 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	NORWOOD, MA (OWD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (ACY)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	2109 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	ATLANTIC CITY (ACY)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	76 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	13	IFR Approach:	ILS
Runway Length/Width:	10000 ft / 180 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ROBERT L HANCOCK	Report Date:	12/03/1989
Additional Participating Persons:	; VERO BEACH, FL ; WILLIAMSPORT, PA		
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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