



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PETROS, TN	Accident Number:	ATL88FA254
Date & Time:	07/02/1988, 2303 EDT	Registration:	N1724U
Aircraft:	CESSNA T207	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE RELATIVELY LOW TIME, NON-INSTRUMENT RATED, PRIVATE PILOT FLEW PASSENGERS TO SAVANNAH, GA. ON THE RETURN FLIGHT, HE MADE A REFUELING STOP AT KNOXVILLE, TN. HE FILED NO FLT PLAN AT KNOXVILLE & NO RECORD OF AN EN ROUTE WX BRIEFING WAS FOUND. AT 2236 EDT, THE PLT CONTACTED THE TOWER & SAID HE WOULD 'LIKE TO VFR TO LOUISVILLE WITH A HEADING OF 330.' HE TOOK OFF AT 2249 & RECEIVED DEPARTURE VECTORS UNTIL CLEARED ON COURSE. RADAR SERVICE WAS TERMINATED, 23 MI NW OF KNOXVILLE. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT HIT TREES & CRASHED ON RISING TERRAIN NEAR THE TOP OF A RIDGE, 30 MI NW OF KNOXVILLE. IMPACT OCCURRED AT APRX 3000' MSL ON A HEADING OF 290 DEG. WX AT KNOXVILLE (ELEV 930') WAS IN PART: 3700' OVERCAST, VISIBILITY 5 MI WITH FOG & RAIN. NO EVIDENCE OF A PREIMPACT PART FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS FOUND DRG THE INVESTIGATION. MOUNTAIN PEAKS IN THE VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE WERE UP TO 3390'.

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: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
7. (C) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN
9. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - RISING
10. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
11. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/18/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	291 hours (Total, all aircraft), 61 hours (Total, this make and model), 291 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N1724U
Model/Series:	T207 T207	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20700324
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/28/1987, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	109 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2190 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-G
Registered Owner:	JOSEPH H SELLIKEN, JR.	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	J & S AERO, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TYS, 930 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2251 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	137°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	290°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19° C / 18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KNOXVILLE, TN (TYS)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	TERRE HAUTE, IN (HUF)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	2249 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WALTER G STINER	Report Date:	12/29/1989
Additional Participating Persons:	JAMES R LEEDER; TENNESSEE,		
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](#).