



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LEADVILLE, CO	Accident Number:	DEN90FA043
Date & Time:	01/17/1990, 0719 MST	Registration:	N835FE
Aircraft:	CESSNA 208A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

PM AIR FLT 824, A FEDERAL EXPRESS SCHEDULED DOMESTIC CARGO FLT, DEPARTED DENVER, CO, AT 0642, IFR TO MONTROSE, CO. FLT WAS CLEARED TO FL 180, BUT PLT CANCELLED IFR AT 0653. RADAR SHOWED ACFT LEVELED OFF AT 14,500 FT ON SW HEADING. ACFT MAINTAINED RELATIVE CONSTANT ALT AND HEADING BEFORE CRASHING 50 FT BELOW SUMMIT OF 14,221-FT MT MASSIVE, SECOND TALLEST PEAK IN CO, AT APRX 0719. WX WAS CAVU. TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS REVEALED MARIJUANA METABOLITE LEVEL OF 37 NG/ML IN URINE AND 1 NG/ML IN BLOOD. PLT WAS ONCE CONVICTED IN 1974 FOR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, BUT HAD NO OTHER ALCOHOL/DRUG CONVICTIONS. EVIDENCE INDICATES PLT OBTAINED ADEQUATE SLEEP PRIOR TO FLT. DURING AUTOPSY, TWO PAGES FROM AIRMEN'S INFORMATION MANUAL WERE FOUND CLUTCHED IN PLT'S HANDS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: DIVERSION OF THE PILOT'S ATTENTION, RESULTING IN AN IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN DURING NORMAL CRUISE FLIGHT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. AUTOPILOT - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
4. LIGHT CONDITION - DAYLIGHT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	None Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/21/1989
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	2800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 2600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N835FE
Model/Series:	208A 208A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20800091
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/25/1989, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	78 Hours	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	2368 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-114
Registered Owner:	FEDERAL EXPRESS CORPORATION	Rated Power:	600 hp
Operator:	P.M. AIR, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	FEDERAL EXPRESS	Operator Designator Code:	EKDA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ASE, 7793 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0750 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	260°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 5000 ft agl	Visibility	30 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-9°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DENVER, CO (DEN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	MONTROSE, CO (MTJ)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0644 MST	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):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Report Date:	09/21/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	MICHAEL F DAVEY; DENVER, CO TERESA O'LEARY; 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 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](#).