



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SWANTON, OH	Accident Number:	CHI92FA084
Date & Time:	01/31/1992, 1606 EST	Registration:	N6038A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-31T	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

THE PILOT MADE ROUTINE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR TAKEOFF. THE AIRPLANE DEPARTED FROM RUNWAY 25 IN DAYLIGHT INSTRUMENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS (IMC) WITH LIGHT SNOW AND FOG. SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF, THE AIRPLANE'S RADAR TARGET DISAPPEARED FROM THE CONTROLLER'S SCOPE. THE AIRPLANE CRASHED ON WOODED TERRAIN ABOUT TWO MILES SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF THE DEPARTURE END OF RUNWAY 25. IMPACT OCCURRED IN AN STEEP, NOSE DOWN, LEFT WING LOW ATTITUDE. THE AIRPLANE WAS DESTROYED BY GROUND IMPACT FORCES AND A POST-IMPACT FIRE. NO PHYSICAL INCAPACITATION OF THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND WAS DETERMINED. NO CONTRIBUTORY MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS OF THE AIRPLANE WERE DISCOVERED.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: LOSS OF AIRCRAFT CONTROL FOR AN UNDETERMINED REASON.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
2. WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. WEATHER CONDITION - SNOW

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

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	45, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/24/1991
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	6850 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3800 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N6038A
Model/Series:	PA-31T PA-31T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31T-7820072
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/17/1992, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5110 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-28
Registered Owner:	TESTA, THOMAS J.	Rated Power:	620 hp
Operator:	TESTA, THOMAS J.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TOL, 684 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1605 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	60°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Partial Obscuration / 800 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1100 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TOLEDO, OH (TOL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	WASHINGTON, PA (AFJ)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1605 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	TOLEDO EXPRESS (TOL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	684 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	10600 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Stephen A Wilson **Report Date:** 03/31/1993

Additional Participating Persons: LEIGH WHITE; CLEVELAND, OH
ROBERT KERNER; CLEVELAND, OH
CHRIS DURKIN; OLATHE, KS
DAN GALLAGHER; PIQUA, OH

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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