



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Steilacoom, Washington	Accident Number:	WPR18FA220
Date & Time:	August 10, 2018, 20:43 Local	Registration:	N449QX
Aircraft:	De Havilland DHC8	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:	Security/criminal event	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Unknown		

Analysis

On August 10, 2018, about 2043 Pacific daylight time, a De Havilland DHC-8-402, N449QX, was destroyed when it impacted trees on Ketron Island, near Steilacoom, WA. The noncertificated pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was registered to Horizon Air Industries, Inc., and was being operated by the noncertificated pilot as an unauthorized flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed in the area at the time of the event, and no flight plan was filed. The airplane departed from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Seattle, Washington, about 1932.

Horizon Air personnel reported that the noncertificated pilot was employed as a ground service agent and had access to the airplanes on the ramp.

The investigation of this event is being conducted under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The NTSB provided requested technical assistance to the FBI, and any material generated by the NTSB is under the control of the FBI. The NTSB does not plan to issue an investigative report or open a public docket.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The NTSB did not determine the probable cause of this event and does not plan to issue an investigative report or open a public docket. The investigation of this event is being conducted under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Findings

Not determined	(general) - Other authority investigated
Personnel issues	Stolen/unauthorized - Ground crew

Factual Information

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History of Flight

Other	Security/criminal event (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	28, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	De Havilland	Registration:	N449QX
Model/Series:	DHC8 402	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2012	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	4410
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	64501 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo prop
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney Canada
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	PW150A
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KTIW, 292 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	19°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.97 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18° C / 14° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Seattle, WA (SEA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:32 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	47.148056, -122.637496(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eckrote, Debra
Additional Participating Persons:	
Original Publish Date:	November 9, 2018
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98044

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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](#).