



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	GEORGETOWN, CO	Accident Number:	DEN88GA185
Date & Time:	08/12/1988, 0930 MDT	Registration:	N9545H
Aircraft:	CESSNA 182R	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Public Aircraft		

Analysis

N9545H, REGISTERED TO THE STATE OF COLORADO, CIVIL AIR PATROL, WAS DISPATCHED ON A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA NEAR GEORGETOWN, COLORADO. THE PLT ENCOUNTERED UNFAVORABLE WINDS WHILE FLYING IN THE SEARCH AREA. THE PAX SAID THAT HE COULD FEEL THE ACFT SETTling JUST BEFORE THE ACFT STRUCK SOME TREES ON THE LEFT SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN RIDGE. A PASSENGER REPORTED THAT THE PLT SAID, 'I DON'T LIKE THE FEEL OF THIS'. A PARAMEDIC SAID THE PASSENGER ALSO RELATED THAT THEY HAD 'HIT A DOWNDRAFT'. A HELICOPTER PLT FLYING IN THE AREA SAID THAT THE WINDS WERE NOT CONDUCTIVE FOR FIXED WING FLTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TRENCHES. THE BROKEN TREES INDICATED A DESCENT ANGLE OF 45 DEGREES. THE DISTANCE FROM 1ST TREE STRIKE TO THE MAIN WRECKAGE WAS 62 FT. THE ACFT CAME TO REST ON ITS NOSE. THE TERRAIN ELEVATION WAS ABOUT 10600 FT MSL.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: ALTITUDE DEVIATION, UNCONTROLLED
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
3. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
5. (C) AIRSPEED - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	40
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3014 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2175 hours (Total, this make and model), 2876 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 182 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N9545H
Model/Series:	182R 182R	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	STATE OF COLORADO	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470U
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Public Aircraft		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 240°
Temperature:	16° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ENGLEWOOD,, CO (APA)	Destination:	(APA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	VERLIN B TRANTER	Adopted Date:	11/07/1989
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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