



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CARSON, New Mexico	Accident Number:	DEN85FA067
Date & Time:	January 20, 1985, 23:15 Local	Registration:	N40TE
Aircraft:	BELL 206 L-1	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled - Air Medical (Unspecified)		

Analysis

THE HELICOPTER CRASHED IN OPEN TERRAIN DURING A TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION. WITNESSES STATED THE ACFT WAS HEADING NORTH AND WAS ON A CONVERGING COURSE WITH HIGH TENSION LINES THAT WERE ABOUT 80 TO 100 FT HIGH AND THE BELLY COUNTER SPOTLIGHT WAS ILLUMINATED WHEN IT PASSED OVERHEAD. THE HELICOPTER IMPACTED SNOW COVERED TERRAIN IN A STEEP DESCENDING BANK TO THE RIGHT AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED ON A SOUTHERLY HEADING. THE POWER LINES SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF HAVING BEEN STRUCK. THE ACCIDENT SITE WAS 300 FT EAST OF THE POWER LINES.

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) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
 2. (F) WEATHER EVALUATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
 4. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO REVERSE DIRECTION

Findings

5. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 27, 1984
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	14000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1500 hours (Total, this make and model), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL	Registration:	N40TE
Model/Series:	206 L-1 206 L-1	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	45712
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 18, 1985 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hrs	Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	7237 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	ALLISON
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	250C-28B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	435 Lbs thrust
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	[EMS]	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	23:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 100 ft AGL	Visibility	3 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 100 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	140°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-9° C / -13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Fog		
Departure Point:	ALBUQUERQUE , NM (ABQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	TAOS , NM (TACO)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	22:19 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	UNKNOWN	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	36.389961,-105.789886(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Mucho, R

Additional Participating Persons: DUDLEY MASON; ALBUQUERQUE , NM
JACK SUTTLE; GRAND PRAIRIE , TX
ROBERT E GREGORY; LOS ANGELES , CA

Original Publish Date:

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=16523>

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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](#).