



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ADRIAN, Michigan	Accident Number:	CHI86FA046
Date & Time:	December 10, 1985, 04:11 Local	Registration:	N5800H
Aircraft:	AEROSPATIALE SA365N	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

THE PURPOSE OF THIS FLIGHT WAS TO PICK UP AN INJURED PATIENT AND RETURN HIM TO A MEDICAL CENTER. THE WEATHER WAS ADEQUATE FOR A VFR TAKEOFF. HOWEVER, ENROUTE WEATHER REPORTS INDICATED FOG AND PROBABLE LOW CEILINGS. ACCORDING TO THE SINGLE SURVIVOR OF THE ACCIDENT, THE PILOT FLEW INTO 'THICK FOG' SHORTLY BEFORE REACHING THEIR DESTINATION FOR THE PATIENT PICKUP. AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE SURVIVOR, THE PILOT THEN TURNED TO THE LEFT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE HELICOPTER STRUCK TREES AND CRASHED TO THE GROUND. AN EXAMINATION OF THE WRECKAGE AND TEARDOWNS OF BOTH ENGINES REVEALED NO PRE- CRASH MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS.

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 - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
2. (F) FLIGHT INTO KNOWN ADVERSE WEATHER - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

5. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

6. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - REDUCED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 19, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AEROSPATIALE	Registration:	N5800H
Model/Series:	SA365N SA365N	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	6022
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 5, 1985 AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	92 Hrs	Engines:	2 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	1241 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL1C
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	660 Horsepower
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:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	04:30 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	200 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-1° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Fog		
Departure Point:	TOLEDO , OH (RLA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ADDISON , MI (RLA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	03:49 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		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:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	41.890899,-84.040771(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Benzon, Robert

Additional Participating Persons:

R	B EEM; BELLVILLE , MI
J	ALEXANDER; GRAND PRAIRIE , TX
B	U MELNICK; GRAND PRAIRIE , TX
W	SCHUMATE; HOUSTON , TX

Original Publish Date:

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=13238>

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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](#).