



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	PORT MANSFIELD, TX	Accident Number:	FTW85FA015
Date & Time:	10/15/1984, 0000 CDT	Registration:	N66CF
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-30	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

ACFT CRASHED IN A MARSH AREA DURING A NIGHT RECURRENCEY TRAINING FLT. ACFT APPEARED TO HAVE CONTACTED THE TERRAIN IN AN UNCONTROLLED 90 DEG LEFT BANK. PIC RECEIVED HIS LAST MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ON 5/7/70. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED PIC WAS UNDER MEDICATION FOR ADVANCED CASE OF SUGAR DIABETES.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN
Findings 1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED -----
Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	71, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Expired	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/07/1970
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N66CF
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Model/Series:	PA-30 PA-30	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	30-1922
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	IO-320-C1A
Registered Owner:	E. H. VIEH	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	E. H. VIEH	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HRL, 35 ft msl	Observation Time:	2246 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	240°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 1300 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1300 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots, 140°	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HARLINGEN, TX (HRL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	HARLINGEN, TX (HRL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	2030 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	J O JOHNSON	Adopted Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	OWEN MAGRUDER; MCALLEN, TX		
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.ntsб.gov/pubdms/ .		