



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ADRIAN, MI	Accident Number:	CHI86FA046
Date & Time:	12/10/1985, 0411 EST	Registration:	N5800H
Aircraft:	AEROSPATIALE SA365N	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business - Air Medical (Unspecified)		

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
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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
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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:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
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:	07/19/1985
Occupational Pilot:		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:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	6022
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/05/1985, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	92 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Shaft
Airframe Total Time:	1241 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL1C
Registered Owner:	CLINTON AVIATION GROUP	Rated Power:	660 hp
Operator:	CLINTON AVIATION GROUP	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 Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0430	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured / 200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-1 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TOLEDO, OH (RLA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	ADDISON, MI (RLA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0349 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ROBERT BENZON	Adopted Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	R BEEM; BELLVILLE, MI J ALEXANDER; GRAND PRAIRIE, TX B U MELNICK; GRAND PRAIRIE, TX W SCHUMATE; HOUSTON, 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.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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