



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	DEKALB, TX	Accident Number:	DCA86AA012
Date & Time:	12/31/1985, 1714 CST	Registration:	N711Y
Aircraft:	DOUGLAS DC-3	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	7 Fatal, 2 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate

Analysis

AT 1708:48, WHILE CRUISING AT 6000', A PILOT OF N711Y ADVISED ATC, 'I THINK I'D LIKE TO TURN AROUND, HEAD FOR TEXARKANA HERE, I'VE GOT A LITTLE PROBLEM.' HE WAS PROVIDED A VECTOR & ADVISED OF CLOSEST AIRPORTS. SHORTLY AFTER, HE STATED HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO REACH THE AIRPORTS. AT 1711:49, HE SAID THERE WAS SMOKE IN THE COCKPIT. WHILE LANDING IN A FIELD AT 1714, THE AIRCRAFT HIT WIRES & A POLE THEN CONTINUED INTO TREES WHERE IT WAS EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY IMPACT & FIRE. THE CREW EGRESSED THRU THE COCKPIT WINDOWS. THE PASSENGERS DID NOT ESCAPE. DURING FLIGHT, THE CREW WAS UNABLE TO START THE CABIN HEATER; DESPITE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY THE CAPTAIN. SMOKE THEN ENTERED THE CABIN. FRESH AIR VENTS & COCKPIT WINDOWS WERE OPENED, BUT SMOKE BECAME DENSE. THE CREW HAD DIFFICULTY SEEING. THE OXYGEN SYSTEM & HAND HELD FIRE EXTINGUISHERS WERE NOT USED. FASTENERS FOR THE HEATER DOOR WERE FOUND UNFASTENED. EXAMINATION INDICATED THE FIRE ORIGINATED IN THE AFT CABIN AREA, RIGHT HAND SIDE, AT OR NEAR THE FLOOR LINE. THE IGNITION AND FUEL SOURCES WERE NOT DETERMINED.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: FIRE
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) FUSELAGE,CABIN - FIRE
2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
3. (F) FUSELAGE,CABIN - SMOKE
4. (F) FUSELAGE,CREW COMPARTMENT - SMOKE
5. (F) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) CHECKLIST - NOT USED
7. (F) OXYGEN SYSTEM - NOT USED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

8. (F) OBJECT - WIRE,TRANSMISSION
9. (F) OBJECT - UTILITY POLE

Occurrence #4: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

10. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	33, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/04/1985
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	5700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	DOUGLAS	Registration:	N711Y
Model/Series:	DC-3 DC-3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	13650
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	16
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	26900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	R-1830-75
Registered Owner:	CENTURY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	Rated Power:	1100 hp
Operator:	RICK NELSON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GUNTERSVILLE, AL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	DALLAS, TX (DAL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1240 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	7 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight and On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	7 Fatal, 2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	FRANCES SHERERTZ	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).