

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

November 16, 2011

17 - GPS Factual Report

**Specialist's Factual Report
by Bill Tuccio**

A. EVENT

Location: Moncks Corner, South Carolina
Date: October 13, 2011
Aircraft: Cessna 150F
Registration: N3086X
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ERA12FA051

B. GROUP - No Group

C. SUMMARY

On October 13, 2011, at an unknown time, a Cessna 150F, N3086X, was substantially damaged when it impacted trees and terrain at Berkeley County Airport (MKS), Moncks Corner, South Carolina. The certificated private pilot was fatally injured. No flight plan had been filed for the personal flight, which was conducted under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

D. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On November 05, 2011, the NTSB Vehicle Recorder Laboratory received the following device(s):

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| GPS Manufacturer/Model: | Garmin GPS 55 AVD |
| Serial Number: | 25661627 |

Garmin GPS 55 AVD Description

The Garmin GPS 55 AVD is a hand-portable GPS unit equipped with a grayscale LCD display, soft-key controls, and a GPS receiver. The unit can be operated using external power, or by using a manufacturer battery pack consisting of 4 AA batteries. A unit mounted antenna or external antenna may be used. The unit is capable of storing user created waypoints and manual position tracklog information. An

internal button-battery is used to provide back-up power to the internal memory and real-time clock during those periods when main power is removed.

GPS Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an exterior examination revealed that the unit had sustained no damage. The internal backup battery was tested and found to be producing 2.3 volts. Power was applied to the accident unit and the screens were examined. Figure 1 shows a navigation screen from the unit.

Figure 1. GPS 55 screen showing OGB airport.



GPS Data Description

The GPS 55 contained no track information. Figure 1 shows the only location related information on the unit. Figure 1 indicates the OGB airport at a location of 33 degrees 27.66 minutes north latitude and 80 degrees 51.53 minutes west longitude. This airport identifier and location is consistent with the Orangeburg Municipal Airport in Orangeburg, South Carolina.