

CEN12FA571

Milner, CO

MEDICAL FACTUAL

The following were reviewed by the Chief Medical Officer for the National Transportation Safety Board, Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH: the pilot's FAA blue ribbon medical file, the autopsy findings, toxicology results, conversations with the investigator, the investigator's reports, the pilot's medical marijuana registry information, and the report of a single clinic visit to a personal physician.

According to the medical examiner, the cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries. The autopsy did not identify any significant underlying medical disease. Toxicology was performed by the medical examiner and the blood results found marijuana, amphetamines, and an ethanol level of 0.110 gm/dl with no ethanol found in the vitreous. Routine toxicology performed by the FAA's toxicology lab was limited by significant putrefaction of the tissue specimens, but 0.104 gm/dl of ethanol, 0.072 ug/ml of tetrahydrocannabinol (marijuana) and 0.0174 ug/ml of tetrahydrocannabinol carboxylic acid (primary metabolite of marijuana) was detected in the blood. No amphetamines were found in the FAA specimen.

Colorado permits the use of medical marijuana and the pilot was registered into the system in January 2010, according to registration information provided.

The pilot had been issued a single FAA medical certification (third class) in March, 2011. On that application he documented that he took no medication of any kind and that he had never had dizziness or a fainting spell.

According to his personal medical records, the pilot visited a medical clinic in August 2010 because of fainting. At that time, the documents reflect that he had felt initially unwell and then fainted twice in a row while stopped to eat on a road trip. He had continued to feel unwell and sought medical attention. During that visit, his blood work was normal and his EKG showed a normal sinus rhythm but his heart rate was only 48. The physician recommended further testing but the pilot refused.