

ERA12FA271

Everglades City, FL

MEDICAL FACTUAL

The following were reviewed by the Chief Medical Officer for the National Transportation Safety Board, Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH: the investigator's report, the autopsy and toxicology findings, and the pilot's FAA blue ribbon medical file.

According to his FAA blue ribbon file, this pilot first obtained third class medical certificate in 2004. He was recertified in 2006 and 2011; the only medical event reported in the interim was an uncomplicated hip replacement surgery. He denied taking any medication at each medical examination. At the time of the fatal crash, he was 54 years old.

The autopsy report reveals the cause of death was multiple blunt injuries with conflagration. Per that report, the heart demonstrated marked atherosclerosis with 80% stenosis in the coronary arteries but the location or extent of maximal stenosis is not mentioned. No microscopic evaluation of the heart was performed.

The toxicology findings included 0.046 ug/ml of nordiazepam (but not oxazepam or temazepam) in the blood and nordiazepam (0.019 ug/ml), oxazepam (0.318 ug/ml), and temazepam (0.08 ug/ml) in the urine. All three of these drugs are metabolites of diazepam (marketed under the trade name Valium), a prescription benzodiazepine classed as a central nervous system depressant and tranquilizer and used as a sleep aid and anxiolytic.