



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**  
Central Region - Denver, Colorado

---

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Brian Plonski  
Subject: – CEN20CA335, N678EC  
Date: 8/13/2020

Mr. Plonski was the pilot of N678EC, a Cirrus SR-22, airplane when it was involved in an inflight upset near Chicago, IL, on 8/11/20.

During the telephone conversation Mr. Plonski stated he was flying from Clark County Airport, IN, to Chicago Executive Airport with his wife and adult daughter. He was seated in the front left seat, his daughter was in the front right seat, and his wife was in a rear seat. When they were about 17 miles west of the Boiler VOR, he and his wife had unbuckled their seat belts to try to retrieve some items from a bag behind the pilot's seat. His daughter, who had never flown in a Cirrus before and was unfamiliar with the sidestick control, grabbed the seat adjust and the sidestick controller and tried to adjust the seat. The pressure on the control stick caused the airplane to violently climb and descend 3-4 times before he could regain control. During the excursions he and his wife bounced off the ceiling, resulting in a cut to his head and his wife received a fractured sternum and a broken bone in her neck. He declared an emergency and proceeded direct to Chicago Executive Airport where he landed uneventfully. Mr. Plonski stated there was nothing wrong with the airplane prior to the event occurring.

Dan Baker  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Senior Air Safety Investigator