

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



WPR22FA235

MEDICAL

Specialist's Factual Report

January 6, 2023

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Vancouver, Washington
Date: 6/28/2022
Time: 07:40 Local
Airplane: Beech V35B; N444PM

B. MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Specialist Michelle Watters, MD, PhD, MPH
National Transportation Safety Board, RE-1
Washington, DC

C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Purpose

This investigation was performed to evaluate the pilot for medical conditions, the use of medications/illicit drugs, and the presence of toxins.

Methods

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical case review and the pilot's autopsy and FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory toxicology reports¹ were reviewed. Other relevant medical and regulatory issues were reviewed.

D. FACTUAL INFORMATION—PILOT

1.0 FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, at the time of the accident, the 64-year-old male pilot held a third class medical certificate with the limitation that he must wear corrective lenses. At the time of his most recent exam (1/31/22), the pilot was 70 inches tall and weighed 188 pounds. He reported having 600 total flight hours. He reported taking no medications and having no medical conditions. No significant medical concerns were identified.

2.0 Autopsy

According to the autopsy report from the Clark County Medical Examiner, Vancouver, Washington, the pilot's cause of death was blunt and thermal injuries, and

¹ The FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory has the capability to test for more than 1,300 substances including toxins, common prescription and over-the-counter medications, and illicit drugs. <https://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/>

the manner of death was accident. The medical examiner reported the pilot had a 50-60% focal area of stenosis in his left main coronary artery and an 80% focal area of stenosis in his right coronary artery. There was no definitive evidence of smoke inhalation.

3.0 Toxicology

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory did not detect ethanol in the pilot's aortic blood and did not detect tested-for drugs in his urine.

E. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FACTS

The 64-year-old male pilot held a third class medical certificate with the limitation that he must wear corrective lenses. At the time of his most recent exam (1/31/22), he reported taking no medications and having no medical conditions. According to the autopsy, the pilot's cause of death was blunt and thermal injuries, and the manner of death was accident. The medical examiner reported the pilot had a 50-60% focal area of stenosis in his left main coronary artery and an 80% focal area of stenosis in his right coronary artery. There was no definitive evidence of smoke inhalation. Toxicology testing was negative for ethanol in the pilot's blood and tested-for drugs in his urine.

Submitted by:

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