



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	GRANTS, New Mexico	Accident Number:	DEN85FQA04
Date & Time:	August 6, 1985, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N65010
Aircraft:	STAR DUSTER TOO SA-300	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT-IN-COMMAND OF N65010, A STARDUSTER II ON 8/6/85 TOOK OFF FROM GRANTS, NM AT ABOUT 1100 MDT, SOUTH BOUND TO INTERCEPT WINSLOW, AZ VOR, RADIAL 255. WHEN TRYING TO GAIN ALTITUDE THE PILOT STATED THE AIRCRAFT FELT THE EFFECTS OF DENSITY ALTITUDE MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO REACH THE AIRWAY ALTITUDE. A DOWN-DRAFT FINALLY CAUSED THE AIRCRAFT TO LOSE FORWARD AIRSPEED CAUSING THE AIRCRAFT TO CRASH IN A NOSE DOWN ATTITUDE. THE ELEVATOR TRIM WAS IN A FULL NOSE UP CONDITION. THE AIRCRAFT WAS DEMOLISHED. THERE WAS NO FIRE. THE PILOT RECEIVED SERIOUS INJURIES. THE ELT ACTIVATED WHICH LED TO THE PILOT'S RESCUE. ACCIDENT ALT WAS 7400 FT MSL.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE

2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
3. (C) ELEVATOR TRIM - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) STALL/MUSH - UNCONTROLLED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	28, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 28, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	210 hours (Total, all aircraft), 65 hours (Total, this make and model), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	STAR DUSTER TOO	Registration:	N65010
Model/Series:	SA-300 SA-300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	BJ101
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 2, 1985 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	9231 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-320
Registered Owner:	MICHAEL C. RYAN	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	192°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	GRANTS , NM (GNT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	WINSLOW , AZ (1NW)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	35.180557,-107.890594(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Horner, Dale

Additional Participating Persons: DAVID A ROBINSON; ABQ , NM

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=16561>

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).