



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	STERLING, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN91FA049
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 10, 1991, 11:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4179S
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BEECH F33A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

A YOUNG PILOT AND HIS PASSENGER FRIEND WERE OBSERVED `BUZZING' THE STERLING, COLORADO, WATER RESERVOIR. THE WITNESSES STATED THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS SKIMMING THE GLASSY SURFACE OF THE WATER WHEN IT STRUCK THE WATER, PITCHED UP ABRUPTLY, THEN NOSED DOWN UNTIL IT IMPACTED THE WATER AND SANK.

## Probable Cause and Findings

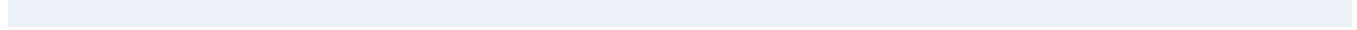
The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: POOR JUDGEMENT OF THE PILOT AND HIS MISJUDGEMENT OF ALTITUDE WHILE BUZZING OVER GLASSY WATER. HIS LACK OF VISUAL QUES TO JUDGE ALTITUDE OVER GLASSY WATER WAS A RELATED FACTOR.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) BUZZING - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER, GLASSY
4. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	20, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	August 20, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	297 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BEECH	<b>Registration:</b>	N4179S
<b>Model/Series:</b>	F33A F33A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	CE-572
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	5
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	0 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520-BA
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ALFRED WARD & SON	<b>Rated Power:</b>	285 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	ALFRED WARD & SON	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	15 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	-18°C / -18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	AKRON , CO (AKO )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

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

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	40.620899,-103.190071(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Tranter, Verlin
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	ROBERT LOFLIN; DENVER , CO G. D STAAB; WICHITA , KS SCOTT BOYLE; ARVADA , CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 3, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18016">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=18016</a>

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