



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CALDWELL, New Jersey	Accident Number:	NYC97LA051
Date & Time:	February 9, 1997, 16:43 Local	Registration:	N8457H
Aircraft:	Piper PA-44-180T	Aircraft Damage:	None
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane was level at approximately 2,500 feet when the pilot became unconscious. The pilot-rated passenger advised the control tower of the medical emergency and landed. Attempts to revive the pilot were unsuccessful. The pilot-rated passenger stated that he was later informed the pilot suffered a heart attack as a result of severe heart disease.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's incapacitation due to a heart attack.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. RELINQUISHING OF CONTROL - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) INCAPACITATION(CARDIOVASCULAR) - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On February 9, 1997 at 1643 Eastern Standard Time, N8457H, a Piper PA-44-180T, was on a personal flight when the pilot became incapacitated and died during a flight to Lincoln Park Airport (N07), Lincoln Park, New Jersey. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The pilot-rated passenger was not injured. The airplane was not damaged. The departure point was Greenwood Lake Airport, West Milford, New Jersey.

According to the pilot-rated passenger, the airplane was level at 2,500 feet, approaching the Lincoln Park Airport. The pilot "...slumped over onto the controls." The pilot-rated passenger restrained the pilot and took control of the airplane. He chose to land at Essex County Airport (CDW), Caldwell, New Jersey, because the airplane was oriented on a straight-in approach to Runway 22. He advised the control tower of the medical emergency and proceeded to the airport. After landing, attempts to revive the pilot were unsuccessful. The pilot-rated passenger stated that he was later informed the pilot suffered a heart attack as a result of severe heart disease.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	46, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 4, 1996
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N8457H
Model/Series:	PA-44-180T PA-44-180T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	44-8207001
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TO-360 SER
Registered Owner:	FORREST AVIATION CORPORTATION	Rated Power:	210 Horsepower
Operator:	WAGNER AIRWAYS	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:	TEB ,9 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:51 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	120°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	320°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	3°C / -13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	WEST MILFORD , NJ (4N1)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LINCOLN PARK , NJ (N07)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	ESSEX COUNTY AIRPORT CDW	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	173 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	22	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4553 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jones, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	KEN SYMONS; TETERBORO , NJ
Original Publish Date:	February 28, 2000
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=39325

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