



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: Draper, Utah Accident Number: DEN05CA015

Date & Time: October 25, 2004, 13:35 Local Registration: N8175M

Aircraft: Cessna 310l Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** 2 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

### **Analysis**

According to the pilot, he "encountered rising terrain and pitched the aircraft up." The pilot stated that he saw terrain ahead of his flight path but "was too close to reverse course." The pilot stated that he "aligned the aircraft with the slope of the terrain and heard the stall warning" prior to impacting terrain. The airplane came to rest inverted, sustaining substantial damage.

### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inadequate in-flight planning and decision making, and his failure to maintain adequate airspeed resulting in a stall.

### **Findings**

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

#### **Findings**

1. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

2. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. (F) STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings
4. TERRAIN CONDITION - RISING
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

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#### **Factual Information**

On October 25, 2004, at approximately 1335 mountain daylight time, a Cessna 310I, N8175M, piloted by a commercial pilot, impacted Point of the Mountain approximately 3 nautical miles south of Draper, Utah. Marginal visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 without a flight plan. The pilot and his passenger sustained minor injuries. The cross-country flight originated in Boise, Idaho, at approximately 1130 and was en route to Spanish Fork (U77), Utah, for a fuel stop.

According to the accident report submitted by the pilot, he was navigating with a global positioning system (GPS) unit to U77. Approximately 22 miles from U77, he "encountered rising terrain and pitched the aircraft up." The pilot stated that he saw Point of the Mountain ahead of his flight course but "was too close to reverse course." The pilot stated that he "aligned the aircraft with the slope of the terrain and heard the stall warning" prior to impacting terrain. The airplane came to rest inverted. The outboard wing tip tanks separated from both wings and both wings were crushed aft longitudinally and wrinkled.

According to the aviation routine weather report (METAR) at Provo taken at 1315, the weather was "winds 350 degrees at 3 knots, visibility 3 statute miles, sky condition scattered at 1,600 feet agl, broken at 2,300 feet agl, overcast at 2,800 feet agl, temperature 4 degrees Celsius (C), dewpoint 2 degrees C, altimeter 29,89 inches.

#### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	65,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:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical–w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 1, 2004
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 6, 2004
Flight Time:	14209 hours (Total, all aircraft), 121 hours (Total, this make and model), 14178 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 121 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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### **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N8175M
Model/Series:	3101	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31010175
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 9, 2004 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	60 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1598 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470-U
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PVU,4497 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	330°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 1600 ft AGL	Visibility	3 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2300 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.88 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	4°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	BOISE, ID (BOI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	SPANISH FORK, UT (U77)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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### **Airport Information**

Airport:	PROVO MUNI PVU	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Unknown
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	40.633335,-111.883331

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#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Bowling, David
Additional Participating Persons:	Bryan W Neville; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	January 24, 2005
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=60434

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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.

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