



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	LEADVILLE, CO	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN90FA043
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/17/1990, 0719 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N835FE
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 208A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

## Analysis

PM AIR FLT 824, A FEDERAL EXPRESS SCHEDULED DOMESTIC CARGO FLT, DEPARTED DENVER, CO, AT 0642, IFR TO MONTROSE, CO. FLT WAS CLEARED TO FL 180, BUT PLT CANCELLED IFR AT 0653. RADAR SHOWED ACFT LEVELED OFF AT 14,500 FT ON SW HEADING. ACFT MAINTAINED RELATIVE CONSTANT ALT AND HEADING BEFORE CRASHING 50 FT BELOW SUMMIT OF 14,221-FT MT MASSIVE, SECOND TALLEST PEAK IN CO, AT APRX 0719. WX WAS CAVU. TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS REVEALED MARIJUANA METABOLITE LEVEL OF 37 NG/ML IN URINE AND 1 NG/ML IN BLOOD. PLT WAS ONCE CONVICTED IN 1974 FOR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, BUT HAD NO OTHER ALCOHOL/DRUG CONVICTIONS. EVIDENCE INDICATES PLT OBTAINED ADEQUATE SLEEP PRIOR TO FLT. DURING AUTOPSY, TWO PAGES FROM AIRMEN'S INFORMATION MANUAL WERE FOUND CLUTCHED IN PLT'S HANDS.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: DIVERSION OF THE PILOT'S ATTENTION, RESULTING IN AN IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN DURING NORMAL CRUISE FLIGHT.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. AUTOPILOT - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
4. LIGHT CONDITION - DAYLIGHT

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	35, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last Medical Exam:</b>	11/21/1989
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 25 hours (Total, this make and model), 2600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N835FE
<b>Model/Series:</b>	208A 208A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	20800091
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	11/25/1989, Continuous Airworthiness	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	8000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	78 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo Prop
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2368 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	PT6A-114
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	FEDERAL EXPRESS CORPORATION	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	P.M. AIR, INC.	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	FEDERAL EXPRESS	<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	EKDA

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ASE, 7793 ft msl	Observation Time:	0750 MST
Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	260°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 5000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	-9° C / -18° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility	30 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 210°	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DENVER, CO (DEN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	MONTROSE, CO (MTJ)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	0644 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Adopted Date:	09/21/1992
Additional Participating Persons:	MICHAEL F DAVEY; DENVER, CO TERESA O'LEARY; WICHITA, KS		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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