



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Rawlins, Wyoming
January 11, 2005



History of Flight

- Crew departed Steamboat Springs, Colorado about 2116
- Cleared to Rawlins at 16,000 feet final cruise altitude
- Descended to 9,000 feet after crossing Rawlins VOR

History of Flight

- Radar contact with the airplane was lost at 2142
- Airplane maneuvering on inbound leg for approach
- Crashed into ridge, 2-1/2 miles from end of runway

Weather

- Weather report: low clouds with light snow and mist
- Witnesses: conditions varied from freezing rain to heavy snow





Weather

- Above Part 91 weather minimums
- Marginally within Part 135 weather minimums
- High probability for moderate rime or mixed icing
- Weather radar available
- Weather briefing from flight service
 - Briefer talking over pilot
 - Pilot alert, but impatient

Flight Risk Evaluation

- Mountain Flight Service hired pilots
 - Experienced in mountain flying
 - Able to make decisions independently
- Medical crew trained to voice their concerns
- Medical crew usually deferred launch decision to pilot
- No formal program

Other Issues

- No aviation-specific dispatch
- Part 91 v. Part 135 operations



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