

Communication Summary

09/24/2019

Information from: Dr. Mary Pat McKay MD, NTSB



Summary & Factual Information: Dr. McKay was asked to review the FAA medical case review, autopsy and toxicology reports, and the NTSB reports regarding this case. Her review, in part, reported:

According to the FAA medical case review and Blue Ribbon medical file, the 73 year old male pilot had reported having 4,000 total flight hours as of his last medical exam, dated 12/05/2017. At that time, he was 64 inches tall and weighed 145 pounds. He had reported having coronary artery disease to the FAA beginning in 2002 when he had a stent placed in his left anterior descending coronary artery and underwent angioplasty of the first diagonal. At the time of his last exam, he reported having high blood pressure and using aspirin to prevent a heart attack, and atorvastatin and ezetimibe to control his cholesterol. These drugs are not considered impairing. The pilot had a cardiology evaluation including a stress test that did not identify any ischemia in September 2017. No significant abnormalities were identified on the physical exam and the pilot was issued a special issuance second class medical certificate limited by a requirement that he wear corrective lenses. In addition, it specified, "Limited Second Class/full Third Class privileges. Not valid for carrying passengers or cargo for compensation except if serving as pilot of fully qualified 2-pilot crew. Not valid for any class after 12/31/2018."

According to the autopsy performed by Central Texas Autopsy, PLLC, the cause of death was multiple traumatic injuries and the manner of death was accident. The extent of damage to the body meant that the examination was severely limited; no organs were available.

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified 0.015 gm/dl of ethanol in arm muscle but no ethanol or any other substances in thigh muscle. Ethanol is primarily a social drug with a powerful central nervous system depressant. After absorption, ethanol is quickly distributed throughout the body's tissues and fluids fairly uniformly. The distribution pattern parallels the water content and blood supply of each organ. Ethanol may also be produced in the body after death by microbial activity.

I can attest that the above summary is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Edward F. Malinowski
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator