



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Mitchell Gallo
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA354
Date: January 10, 2022

Medical and Pathological Information:

An autopsy of the pilot was performed by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, Ramsey, Minnesota. The cause of death of the pilot was multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. Although the brain was not available for examination, no significant natural disease was identified by the medical examiner. Toxicology testing performed by the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory detected ethanol in the pilot's muscle tissue at 0.045 grams per hectogram (gm/hg), ethanol was not detected in his liver tissue. The non-impairing medications rosuvastatin, which is used to treat high cholesterol, and quinine, which is used in the treatment of malaria and leg cramps were detected in his blood and liver tissue. Toxicology testing performed for the Medical Examiner's office detected ethanol in the pilot's heart blood at 0.033 grams per deciliter (gm/dL). Ethanol is a social drug commonly consumed by drinking beer, wine, or liquor. It acts as a central nervous system depressant; it impairs judgment, psychomotor functioning, and vigilance. Ethanol is water soluble, and after absorption it quickly and uniformly distributes throughout the body's tissues and fluids. The distribution pattern parallels water content and blood supply of the tissue. Ethanol can be produced after death by microbial activity, sometimes in conjunction with other alcohols. Extensive trauma increases the spread of bacteria and raises the risk of ethanol production after death.

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