

EXCERPTS FROM THE FAA REPORT

Dunn County Sheriff's Department was the first law enforcement on scene.

The witness was a friend of the pilot and owner of the private airstrip. The witness is also a pilot. The witness stated the PIC was checking weather about every 30 minutes and was nervous about making the flight. The witness stated that it was very dark at the time of departure and estimates the ceiling was about 200 feet in fog and light drizzle, although it could have been lower but too dark to see. The PIC was urged not to take off by the witness and offered a vehicle instead. The PIC chose to depart in hopes of making it to nearby Dickinson, ND to land for fuel. The witness and his brother, who is also a pilot, shined their vehicle lights on the runway so the PIC could take off. The witness stated the PIC took off and the aircraft lights disappeared within seconds of departure. The witness stated he could hear the aircraft running at high RPM and thought the PIC was turning around. The witness then heard the aircraft impact the ground.

The wreckage was found about .25 miles from the departure point on the top of a hill. The aircraft was completely destroyed and the PIC and sole occupant was killed on impact.

The aircraft wreckage and debris field indicated this was a high velocity, low angle impact.