



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Medical Factual Report

April 20, 2022

Mary Pat McKay, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

A. CRASH: CEN22FA064; Walsenburg, CO

Date and time: December 8, 2021

Injuries: 1 fatal

B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION

No group was formed for the medical evaluation in this accident.

C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

1. Purpose

This investigation was performed to evaluate the pilot for medical conditions, the use of medications/illicit drugs, and the presence of toxins.

2. Methods

The FAA medical case review, autopsy report, toxicology findings, and the investigator's preliminary report were reviewed. Relevant regulation and medical literature were reviewed as appropriate.

FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, the 70-year-old male pilot had reported 20,181 total hours of flight experience as of his last aviation medical exam, dated 10/24/2017. At that time, he was 69 inches tall and weighed 156 pounds. He had reported no chronic medical conditions or use of medications to the FAA. No significant abnormalities were identified, and he was issued a first class medical certificate without limitations. The medical certificate expired for all classes in 2019, but he had applied for BasicMed with a BasicMed Course Date of 5/6/2020 and a Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist date of 5/5/2020.

Autopsy

According to the autopsy report issued by the El Paso County Coroner, the cause of death multiple blunt force injuries and the manner of death was accident. In addition, severe coronary artery disease was identified; the left anterior descending and right coronary arteries exhibited focal eccentric stenosis of about 75%. The right coronary artery exhibited evidence of recanalization (meaning previously having greater occlusion and reopening to some degree). No other mention was made of other cardiac findings and no other significant disease was identified.

Toxicology

Toxicology tests performed by the El Paso County Coroner's Office did not identify any tested-for substances.

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified salicylic acid in cavity blood and urine. Salicylic acid is a metabolite of aspirin, an over-the-counter analgesic that may be used to prevent heart attacks.

D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS

The 70-year-old male pilot had reported no chronic medical conditions or use of medications to the FAA.

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