



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Medical Factual Report

February 5, 2020

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Chief Medical Officer

A. ACCIDENT: ERA19FA170; Naples, FL

On May 11, 2019, about 1530 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-30, N7650Y, was destroyed when it impacted the ground while on approach to Naples Municipal Airport (APF), Naples, Florida. The private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was being operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and an instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan was filed for the flight that originated from Key West International Airport (EYW), Key West, Florida, about 1445.

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 reports were reviewed. Relevant regulation and medical literature were reviewed as appropriate.

FAA Medical Case Review

According to the FAA medical case review, the 71 year old male pilot reported 2,419 total flight hours as of his last medical exam, dated 02/12/2019. At that time, he was 73 inches tall and weighed 216 pounds.

He had reported having hypertension and previous surgeries to the FAA. At the time of his last exam, he reported using sildenafil (a prescription drug for erectile dysfunction), irbesartan (a prescription blood pressure medication), and aspirin (an anti-platelet drug used to prevent heart attacks).^{1 2}None of these are considered impairing. No significant abnormalities were identified on the physical exam and he was issued a third class medical certificate without limitations.

Autopsy

According to the autopsy performed by the District Twenty Medical Examiner, Collier County, the cause of death was airplane crash and the manner of death was accident. There was extensive damage and the brain and heart were not available for examination. Large black feathers were identified in contact with the remains.

Toxicology

Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory did not identify any tested-for substances in muscle tissue.³

D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS

The 71 year old male pilot had reported having hypertension to the FAA and at his last exam reported using sildenafil (a prescription drug for erectile dysfunction), irbesartan (a prescription blood pressure medication), and aspirin (an anti-platelet drug used to prevent heart attacks). None of these are considered impairing.

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¹ National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Sildenafil.
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=56a962e8-de00-4a97-8904-0b1bd217dd83>
Accessed 2/5/2020.

² National Institutes of Health. US National Library of Medicine. DailyMed. Irbesartan.
<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=e8635a1c-ae06-4e23-99f7-e704f91d6f43>
Accessed 2/5/2020.

³ The FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory has the capability to test for more than 1300 substances including toxins, common prescription and over-the-counter medications as well as illicit drugs. See:
<http://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/default.asp?offset=0>