



# **NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

Office of Research and Engineering  
Washington, DC

## **Medical Factual Report**

**March 17, 2020**

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### **A. ACCIDENT: ERA19FA181; Auburn Township, Ohio**

On May 28, 2019, at 2355 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-28R-180, N3933T, was destroyed when it collided with trees and terrain near Auburn Township, Ohio. The private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was registered to and operated by the pilot as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight. Night instrument meteorological conditions prevailed in the area at the time the accident occurred. A visual flight rules flight plan was filed for the flight that departed Cincinnati-Lunken Airport (LUK), Cincinnati, Ohio, about 2209 and destined for the Geauga County Airport (7G8), Middlefield, Ohio.

### **B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION**

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

### **C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION**

#### **Purpose**

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

#### **Methods**

The FAA medical case review and pilot's autopsy and FAA Forensic Sciences toxicology reports<sup>1</sup> were reviewed. Other pertinent scientific and regulatory issues were examined.

#### **FAA Medical Case Review**

According to the FAA medical case review, the 55-year-old male pilot held a third class medical certificate with the limitation that he must have available glasses for near vision. At the time of the only exam (6/19/18), he reported 4 total flight hours. The pilot was 68 inches tall and weighed 231 pounds. He reported taking no medications. No concerns were reported by the pilot and no significant medical issues were identified.

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<sup>1</sup> The FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory can test for more than 1,300 substances including toxins, common prescription and over-the-counter medications as well as illicit drugs. See: <http://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/toxicology/>

### Autopsy

According to the Office of the Coroner Geauga County, Chardon, Ohio, the cause of the pilot's death was blunt force trauma with skeletal and soft tissue injuries and the manner of death was accidental. The autopsy was performed by Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

According to their autopsy report, the pilot had 95% and 90% atherosclerotic narrowing of the left anterior descending and left circumflex coronary arteries, respectively. The right coronary artery could not be evaluated. The medical examiner reported a 4 x 2 x 1.5 centimeter area of white fibrosis on the posterior left ventricle of the heart that was consistent with a scar from a previous heart attack. No other significant natural disease was identified.

### Toxicology

Toxicological testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory found no tested for drugs detected in the pilot's urine. Toxicology testing performed by the Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Sciences Laboratory detected caffeine in the pilot's urine. No tested for drugs were detected in either the pilot's liver tissue or vitreous fluid.

## **D. SUMMARY OF MEDICAL FINDINGS**

The 55-year-old male pilot held an expired third class medical certificate with the limitation that he must have available glasses for near vision. At the time of his only exam (6/19/18), he reported taking no medications and having no medical conditions.

According to the autopsy, the cause of the pilot's death was blunt force trauma with skeletal and soft tissue injuries and the manner of death was accidental. His left anterior descending coronary artery had 95% narrowing by atherosclerotic plaques and the left circumflex coronary artery had 90% stenosis. There was evidence of a remote heart attack.

Toxicological testing of urine, liver tissue, and vitreous fluid was negative for tested for drugs.