



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: March 23, 2020
Person Contacted: Dr. Michelle Watters (NTSB Medical Officer)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19FA240

Narrative:

Dr. Watters performed a review of the medical factors pertaining to the investigations. The contents below are factual findings from her review:

Dr. Watters reviewed the pilot's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical certification files, FAA medical case review, personal medical records, autopsy report, FAA Forensic Sciences laboratory toxicology report, and additional relevant medical information.

According to the FAA medical certification files and FAA medical case review, the 60-year-old male pilot held a second-class medical certificate with no limitations. His last FAA medical certification exam was on 9/11/17 and at that time he reported he had accrued 740 total flight hours. The pilot was 63 inches tall and weighed 165 pounds. He reported taking atorvastatin for high cholesterol, hydrochlorothiazide for high blood pressure, and levothyroxine for hypothyroidism. None of these are considered impairing.

The pilot had a remote history of premature atrial and ventricular contractions which were first reported in his initial FAA medical certification exam in 2010. Cardiac work-up was unremarkable with normal exercise stress tests and cardiac monitoring and there had been no recent recurrence. No other medical concerns or issues were identified.

Personal medical records from the pilot's primary care health center were obtained for three years prior to the accident. Records were consistent with the reported medications and medical conditions in the FAA medical certification files. His blood pressure was well controlled, and he denied chest pain or syncopal events (fainting) at multiple clinical visits. For his application to obtain hospital clinical privileges, the pilot underwent a cognitive screen on 10/15/19 and it was reported that there was no evidence of cognitive dysfunction.



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According to the autopsy performed by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, Norrington, Pennsylvania, the pilot "died of multiple injuries reportedly sustained as the operator of an aircraft involved in an aircraft accident." Due to extensive injuries, the brain and heart were not available for examination. Toxicology testing performed by the coroner's office was positive for caffeine in muscle tissue. FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory toxicology testing was negative for ethanol in muscle and kidney tissue and for tested for drugs in muscle tissue.