



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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National Transportation Safety Board

Date: September 23, 2021
Person Contacted: Dr. Mary Pat McKay (NTSB Medical Officer)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA189

Narrative:

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

According to the FAA medical case review, the 55-year-old male student pilot had reported 25 total flight hours as of his only medical exam dated 1/14/2019. At that time, he was 69 inches tall and weighed 178 pounds. The student pilot reported no medical conditions and no use of medications to the FAA. No significant abnormalities were identified during the exam, and he was issued a third class medical certificate without limitations [which had expired in January 2021].

According to the autopsy performed by the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center, Office of the Medical Examiner, the cause of death was multiple blunt force traumatic injuries and the manner of death was accident. The examination was significantly limited by the degree of injury; no significant natural disease was identified.

Toxicology performed at the request of the medical examiner by NMS Labs did not identify any tested-for substances in muscle tissue. Toxicology testing performed by the FAA's Forensic Sciences Laboratory identified ethanol, methanol, alprazolam, bupropion, buspirone, dihydrocodeine, metoprolol, atorvastatin, and amlodipine in kidney tissue. Most of these were also identified in muscle tissue. No blood was available for testing.

Description of substances

Ethanol is primarily a social drug with a powerful central nervous system depressant. Ethanol may also be produced in tissues after death by microbial activity.

Methanol is another form of alcohol that can be produced in tissues after death.



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Alprazolam is a sedating benzodiazepine commonly marketed with the name Xanax.

Bupropion is an antidepressant commonly marketed with the name Wellbutrin. It can have a number of potentially impairing psychoactive effects.

Buspirone is a sedating anti-anxiety medication often marketed with the name Buspar.

Dihydrocodeine is an opioid analgesic often used in preparations for the treatment of cough. It is also a metabolite of hydrocodone, a Schedule II controlled substance.

Metoprolol and amlodipine are blood pressure medications and are not generally considered impairing.

Atorvastatin is an anti-cholesterol agent commonly marketed with the name Lipitor. It is not generally considered impairing.

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