

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



Medical Factual Memorandum for Record

January 7, 2025

A. CASE

NTSB ID: ERA23FA254
Location: Albertville, Alabama
Date: May 3, 2023

B. MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Specialist Turan Kayagil, MD, FACEP
National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC

C. DETAILS

1.0 Description of Review

For purposes of evaluating the pilot for potentially impairing substances and potentially impairing medical conditions, the above Medical Specialist reviewed the following sources of medical information, along with selected relevant regulation, medical literature, and investigator reports.

- Final Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical case review
- Autopsy report (with toxicology and death investigation documentation)
- FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory toxicology report

2.0 Summary of Medical Facts

The 75-year-old male pilot's last aviation medical examination was March 27, 2002. At that time, he reported no medication use or active medical conditions. He was issued a second-class medical certificate limited by a requirement to wear

corrective lenses. That medical certificate subsequently expired. The pilot did not hold active medical certification at the time of the accident.¹

The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) performed the pilot's autopsy. According to the pilot's autopsy report, his cause of death was blunt force injuries and his manner of death was accident. Examination of the heart was limited by injury, and the coronary arteries could not be examined. Within the limitations of the autopsy, it did not identify significant natural disease.

Accompanying narrative information from death investigator records documented that the pilot had a medical history including prediabetes and vascular issues; the source of this information was not specifically documented.

ADFS postmortem toxicological testing did not detect any tested-for substances. The FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory also performed toxicological testing of postmortem specimens from the pilot, detecting metformin and glipizide in liver and muscle tissue. Glucose was not detected in vitreous. No blood was available for testing.

Metformin is a prescription oral medication commonly used for blood sugar control in diabetes and prediabetes. Glipizide is another prescription oral medication commonly used for blood sugar control in diabetes. Metformin and glipizide are not typically impairing (although side effects such as low blood sugar are possible).

Submitted by:

Turan Kayagil, MD, FACEP
Medical Officer

¹ FAA medical certification is not required for a pilot to exercise sport pilot privileges in a light sport aircraft if other required qualifications and operating restrictions are met ([14 CFR Part 61 Subpart J](#)).