

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Timothy W. Monville
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety-Eastern Region

Date: June 24, 2026

Subject: ERA24LA227

Subject: NTSB Medical Officer Reports Review Factual Summary

As part of the investigation, an NTSB Medical Officer (NTSB MO) was asked to review the autopsy, FAA Toxicology, Axis Forensic Toxicology, and Final FAA Medical Case Review reports. The NTSB MO reported that with respect to the autopsy report, some evidence of hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease was reported, including intermittent coronary artery plaque without significant narrowing and moderate aortic plaque. The NTSB MO reported that with respect to the Axis Forensic Toxicology report, ethanol was not detected in postmortem cavity blood with the ethanol test having a screening limit of 0.02 g/dL¹.

The NTSB MO reported with respect to ethanol, it is the intoxicating alcohol in beer, wine, and liquor, and, if consumed, can impair judgment, psychomotor performance, cognition, and vigilance. FAA regulation imposes strict limits on flying after consuming ethanol, including a prohibition on piloting a civil aircraft while having a blood ethanol level of 0.04 g/dL or greater. Alcohol consumption is not the only possible source of ethanol in postmortem specimens. Ethanol sometimes may be produced by microbes in a person's body tissues and fluids after death. Postmortem ethanol production is made more likely by traumatic injury, which can spread microbes. Typically, vitreous fluid is the specimen type best protected against microbial contamination and therefore is less susceptible to postmortem ethanol production than other specimen types.

¹ Per the Axis Forensic Toxicology website.