



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Aaron McCarter
Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: August 22, 2025 (NTSB Medical Review Date)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA25FA119

Medical and Pathological Information:

AUTOPSY BASIC INFORMATION (FACTUAL)

Includes only information about who performed the autopsy and the cause and manner of death information provided in the autopsy report. Any pertinent positive autopsy findings will be separately identified under "Pertinent Positives" below.

- The Florida District 23 Office of the Medical Examiner performed the pilot's autopsy.
- According to the pilot's autopsy report, his cause of death was blunt trauma, and his manner of death was accident.

PERTINENT POSITIVES (FACTUAL)

Evidence of conditions or substances associated with increased risk of operator impairment or incapacitation:

- The 75-year-old male pilot's last aviation medical examination was June 26, 2024. At that time, he reported a history of high blood pressure qualified under Conditions Aviation Medical Examiners Can Issue (CACI) criteria. He was issued a second-class medical certificate limited by a requirement to use corrective lenses to meet vision standards at all required distances.
- The pilot's autopsy was severely limited for evaluation of natural disease due to the extent of his injuries. His heart and brain were not available for examination, and available lung tissue was very limited.
- Postmortem toxicological testing performed by Axis Forensic Toxicology at the request of the Medical Examiner's Office detected ethanol at 0.06 g/hg in muscle

tissue. (In tissue, concentrations in g/hg are approximately equivalent to concentrations in g/dL.) Postmortem toxicological testing by the FAA Forensic Sciences Laboratory detected ethanol at 0.016 g/hg in muscle tissue and did not detect ethanol in lung tissue. FAA toxicology results also included metformin detected in muscle tissue and lung tissue. No blood, urine, or vitreous fluid was available for toxicological testing.

DESCRIPTIONS OF PERTINENT POSITIVE SUBSTANCES (FACTUAL)

- *Ethanol* - Ethanol 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 after death. Postmortem ethanol production is made more likely by extensive traumatic injury.
- *Metformin* – Metformin is a prescription oral medication commonly used for blood sugar control in diabetes and prediabetes. Metformin is not typically impairing and may be acceptable for FAA pilot medical certification if the underlying condition is determined to be acceptable.