



NTSB National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety



Accident Summary

Crash of Cessna 550

John Brannen

Investigator-in-Charge

Accident Summary

- June 4, 2007 – 4:00 pm
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Part 135 flight under contract with
University of Michigan Medical
Center
- Human organ transport flight

Flight Sequence

- Immediately after takeoff, captain noted flight control problem
- About 2 minutes into flight, pilots requested return to airport
- Pilots lost control of airplane, crashed into Lake Michigan

Animation Setup Slide

HOT-1: I'm fighting the controls Dennis.

03:57:57

1340 feet

160 knots



General Mitchell
International Airport

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Accident Scenarios

- Multiple scenarios examined
 - Runaway pitch trim
 - Inadvertent autopilot activation
- Flight data recorder and/or image recorder not installed

Crew Response

- Controllable event
- Mismanagement of abnormal flight control situation
 - Failure to control airspeed
 - Failure to prioritize aircraft control
 - Lack of crew coordination

Safety Issues

- Cockpit image recorders
- Airplane and system deficiencies
- Human factors in airplane design
- FAA oversight
- Upset recovery training

Investigation Participants

- Parties
 - Cessna Aircraft Company
 - Honeywell International
 - Marlin Air, Inc.
 - Federal Aviation Administration
- Additional assistance
 - CAE
 - Transport Canada

Accredited Representative

- Transportation Safety Board of Canada
- Advisor: Pratt & Whitney Canada



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