

Cessna 421C crash site near Tajiique, NM

DATE December 3, 2002

AIRCRAFT CESSNA 421C, Registration No. N3855C

GENERAL LOCATION Manzano Mountains west of Tajiique, NM

PEOPLE ABOARD Pilot

REFERENCES NTSB ID. FTW03FA055, Probable Cause and full narrative; and personal communications with NM SAR volunteers

HISTORY

This historical information was extracted and summarized from the references. Refer to them for more details.

The aircraft left Alamogordo, NM, on the third leg of a flight initially to Albuquerque, NM, from El Paso, TX, to Las Cruces, NM, to Alamogordo, NM, and finally to Albuquerque, NM. It was a commercial flight at night and the pilot was flying VFR. While maneuvering around the mountains west of Tajiique, the plane crashed at approximately 2035 hours MST. The pilot was killed and the body later recovered by New Mexico Search and Rescue volunteers and State Police personnel. The aircraft was subsequently recovered and examined in Phoenix, AZ, on December 16, 2002.

The NTSB probable cause was determined to be “The pilot’s failure to maintain terrain clearance. Factors contributing to the accident were the high mountains, mountain obscuration, the dark night condition, and the pilot’s improper in-flight planning/decision making.”



Photo of a similar Cessna 421C aircraft