

Piper Comanche, PA24, Crash Site, Near Tijeras, NM

DATE July 12, 1964

AIRCRAFT Piper PA24, Registration No. N8339P, non-commercial flight

GENERAL LOCATION Northeast of Tijeras, NM, in Wilderness Area

PEOPLE ABOARD Pilot and three passengers

REFERENCES NTSB Accident Brief, NTSB ID: UNKNOWN (possibly file No. 2-0477), and Albuquerque Journal newspaper articles

HISTORY

Newspaper reports state that the flight originated in Canton, OK, and was en route to Las Vegas, NV.

The accident flight information presently available is in the above NTSB brief. The accident occurred at 1003 hrs. The pilot and three passengers all perished in the crash. The pilot was not instrument rated. The cause of crash was listed as “pilot in command – continued VFR flight into adverse weather conditions.” He had obtained a weather briefing by telephone but the weather turned out to be worse than forecast. The visibility at crash time was 3 miles or less with a low ceiling, overcast/low scattered clouds, rain and thunderstorm activity. The actual weather conditions were characterized as IFR in the brief. The flight was listed as being in normal cruise when it encountered an uncontrolled collision with the ground.

The crash site is northwest of Tijeras, New Mexico, on the southeastern slope of the Sandia Mountains. It is located in a Wilderness Area. By October, 2008, several crash explorers had visited the site. Many small pieces of the aircraft were found and left there.



Photo of a similar Piper PA-24 Comanche aircraft