



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Wikieup, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR21FA266
Date & Time:	July 10, 2021, 12:55 Local	Registration:	N3688P
Aircraft:	Beech C90	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Public aircraft		

On July 10, 2021, about 1255 mountain standard time, a Beech C-90, turbo prop airplane, N3688P, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Wikieup, Arizona. The pilot and Air Tactical Group supervisor were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a public-use firefighting aircraft in support of the Bureau of Land Management conducting aerial reconnaissance and supervision.

The airplane was on station for about 45 minutes over the area of the Cedar Basin fire. Preliminary radar data showed that the airplane had accomplished multiple orbits over the area of the fire about 2,500 ft above ground level (agl). The last radar data point showed the airplane's airspeed about 151 knots, its altitude about 2,300 ft agl, and that it was in a descent, about 805 ft east southeast of the accident site.

According to a witness, the airplane was observed in a steep dive towards the ground. Subsequently, the airplane impacted side of a ridgeline in mountainous desert terrain about 15 miles northeast of Wikieup. The wreckage was consumed by a post-crash fire. Debris was scattered over an area of several acres. The left wing was located about 0.79 miles northeast of the main wreckage and did not sustain thermal damage. No distress call from the airplane was overheard on the radio.

The airplane was recovered to a secure facility for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N3688P
Model/Series:	C90	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Designator Code:	X0FA		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KIGM, 3420 ft msl	Observation Time:	12:51 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	42° C / 12° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / 18 knots, 260°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:	Marana, AZ	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	34.824722, -113.39138 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nixon, Albert
Additional Participating Persons:	
Note:	