



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Chinle, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR25FA240
Date & Time:	August 5, 2025, 12:45 Local	Registration:	N534AW
Aircraft:	Beech 300	Injuries:	4 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Scheduled - Air Medical (Medical emergency)		

On August 5, 2025, about 1245 mountain daylight time, a Beech 300, N534AW, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Chinle, Arizona. The pilot, co-pilot and two medical crew members were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 135 positioning flight.

Automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) data and air traffic control radar data showed that the airplane departed Albuquerque International Sunport Airport (ABQ) Albuquerque, New Mexico about 1155, climbed to 18,000 ft mean sea level (msl) and proceeded direct to Chinle Municipal Airport (E91) Chinle, Arizona. About 1229 the airplane began a descent and about 1239, the airplane entered the traffic pattern on the downwind leg for runway 36. About 1240, while about 6,600 ft, the airplane turned right and entered the base leg. The last radar data point recorded the airplane about 6,100 ft, and about 2.8 miles southeast of the runway 36 threshold.

According to a witness, who was located about one quarter mile from the airport, he observed the airplane on a northbound heading over the runway while flying about 180 ft above ground level (agl). The left wing banked erratically multiple times and then leveled off, at which time the airplane pitched up. The left wing then dropped into a knife edge attitude, while the airplane descended to the ground and immediately erupted in flames.

The airplane impacted open terrain about 990 ft west of runway 36 at an elevation of about 5,510 ft. A path of disturbed terrain and vegetation extended about 281 ft from the main wreckage and included multiple airframe components. A postaccident fire thermally damaged the fuselage and wings.

A cockpit voice recorder was recovered from the airplane and shipped to the NTSB Vehicle Recorders Laboratory for download. The airplane was recovered to a secure facility for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N534AW
Model/Series:	300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	CSI AVIATION INC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRQE, 6743 ft msl	Observation Time:	12:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C / -1°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	14 knots / 28 knots, 270°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.38 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Albuquerque, NM (ABQ)	Destination:	Phoenix, AZ (IWA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	4 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	36.11506,-109.5779

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Salazar, Fabian
Additional Participating Persons:	Chuck Baxter; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ Les Doud; Hartzell Propellers Tony Herschberger; Textron Aviation Michael Hodeg; Pratt & Whitney Canada
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	