



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Punta Islita, Costa Rica	Accident Number:	CEN18FA063
Date & Time:	12/31/2017, 1800 UTC	Registration:	TI-BEI
Aircraft:	CESSNA 208	Injuries:	12 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Non-U.S., Commercial		

On December 31, 2017, about 1800 hours universal coordinated time, a Cessna 208B airplane bearing Costa Rican registration TI-BEI, was destroyed when it impacted terrain while maneuvering after takeoff from runway 3, at the Islita Airport (MRIA), near Corozalito, Costa Rica. The 2 flight crewmembers and 10 passengers were fatally injured. The airplane was destroyed by impact forces and post impact explosion and fire. The aircraft was registered to and operated by Nature Air, San Jose, Costa Rica, as a commercial charter flight operating under Costa Rican flight regulations. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight. The flight was originated at the time of the accident. The intended destination was the Juan Santamaria International Airport (MROC), San Jose, Costa Rica.

The accident airplane was the second of a flight of two airplanes transporting hotel guests from MRJA to MROC, where most of the passengers had International Airline flights out of Costa Rica. Both airplanes were Cessna 208 airplanes. The first airplane departed MRJA using runway 3 and after liftoff made a right turn through a pass through the hills that led back out to the ocean. The first airplane reached MROC successfully. The accident airplane remained on the ground for about 15 minutes longer. According to the hotel worker that was at the airport during the departure, when the accident airplane took off, it did not make the same right turn as the prior airplane but continued on runway heading. The terrain in the direction of the runway orientation consisted of a valley with rising terrain on either side. The valley continues and turns left with the floor of the valley rising until reaching a mountain. When heading in a northerly direction there was no exit from the valley. The airplane impacted terrain on the northwest side of the valley about 0.5 miles from the departure end of runway 3 at MRJA.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	TI-BEI
Model/Series:	208 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	Nature Air	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility:	
Altimeter Setting:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:	Punta Islita (MRIA)	Destination:	San Jose (MROC)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	10 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	12 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen
Additional Participating Persons:	Patrick Hemen; FAA; Washington, DC Henry Soderlund; Textron Aviation; Wichita, KS
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.