

Conclusions

DEPARTURE MISHAP CHARACTERISTICS

- **Departure into low, very low or obscured cloud ceiling.**
- **Departure into low visibility.**
- **Fog.**
- **Failure to climb.**
- **During turns, descent into the ground.**
- **Failure to follow a prescribed departure procedure.**
- **Failure to acknowledge frequency change instructions and, in most cases, failure to report on the new departure frequency.**

WHAT THESE PILOTS HAD GOING FOR THEM

- **The airplanes were all well-equipped.**
- **The pilots were all highly experienced with ample time in make-and-model.**
- **Most of the pilots were very instrument current.**
- **Two of the airplanes were turboprops—universally considered to be safer in low IMC.**
- **Most of the departure airports were tower-controlled.**
- **All the pilots had received a pre-flight weather briefing.**
- **All were operating on an IFR clearance.**

There's one last item most pilots don't get: All were just taking off, the phase of flight when we don't know yet whether anything is broken or improperly set.