

## EAA Chapter 59 Simulator Scenario for March 2026 IMC/VMC/Safety Club

### The most dangerous public approach in the US

An Epic Aircraft E1000 departed Memphis the morning of February 12<sup>th</sup>, with four persons onboard. The aircraft was on its third leg of the day. The aircraft was flying the RNAV Z 35 approach to Steamboat Springs Airport. The plane hit Emerald Mountain (Elev. 8353 ft.) just after midnight February 13, 2026. Information from publicly available flight data shows the plane crashed into Emerald Mountain at an elevation of 8,000 ft. All aboard perished.

You will notice that this is an LNAV approach only. There are also night restrictions in the notes. Pilots who experienced issues with this approach relied too much on their autopilot to keep them above MDA.

So what are we going to do? Of course, we're going to fly it *at night* in marginal weather. You only live once.

#### Current METAR

KSBS 160300Z AUTO 32015KT 2SM -R OVC023 23/12 A2992 RMK A02  
Ignore NOTAMS (see below).

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Select the scenario "IMC Club - Mar26".

When the scenario starts, you are at the IAF TILLI, heading 350, 120 knots, at 12,400 feet MSL.

Denver Center says cleared for the RNAV Z RWY 32 approach".

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**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:** At 90 knots approach speed (75 knots groundspeed), what descent rate do you need to land if you spot the runway environment at the MAP.

**Note:** You will be relieved to know that less than a week after the E1000 accident, the FAA NOTAMED the approach NOT AUTHORIZED.

Close Alert NOTAMS

LAST 7 DAYS

 SBS INSTRUMENT APPROACH PROCEDURE  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS/BOB ADAMS FLD,  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO.  
RNAV (GPS) Z RUNWAY 32, ORIG...  
PROCEDURE NA. EXPIRATION ESTIMATED. FDC 6/7229

Effective Feb 19, 2:56 PM PST (Active)  
Expires Oct 1, 3:56 PM PDT (in 223 days)