



Aviation Investigation Factual Report

Location:	San Simeon, California	Accident Number:	WPR10LA002
Date & Time:	October 2, 2009, 17:16 Local	Registration:	N31KT
Aircraft:	Cessna 421B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Ground collision	Injuries:	6 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

Factual Information

On October 2, 2009, at 1716 Pacific daylight time, N31KT, a Cessna 421B, rolled backwards into a parked car at the Hearst Castle Airstrip, San Simeon, California. The empennage sustained substantial damage. Western Air Charter was operating the airplane under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 135. The airline transport pilot and five passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and the pilot had requested and received flight following. The pilot departed from Santa Monica Municipal Airport, Santa Monica, California, at 1600 and was at his destination when the accident occurred.

The pilot reported that he had shutdown the engines and secured the airplane. The pilot indicated that although the checklist called for setting the parking brake, he elected to not use it since there were several chocks available on the ramp and no movement of the airplane was observed. He walked back to open the passenger door when the airplane began rolling backwards and impacted the windshield of a parked car. Although the parking area appeared level, the pilot indicated that later analysis showed there was a gradual slope.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 23, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 31, 2009
Flight Time:	5612 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1700 hours (Total, this make and model), 5518 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 59 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N31KT
Model/Series:	421B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421B0011
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 24, 2008 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7250 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	73 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4850 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Teledyne Continental Motors
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-H
Registered Owner:	Kenneth Smith	Rated Power:	375 Horsepower
Operator:	Western Air Charter	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PRB,840 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.8 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Santa Monica, CA (SMO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	San Simeon, CA (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Hearst Castle Airstrip PVT	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	195 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	5 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	6 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.663612,-121.198608

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dunks, Kristi
Additional Participating Persons:	Earl Lebsack; Federal Aviation Administration; San Jose, CA
Report Date:	November 23, 2009
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=74841

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