



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Hawley, Minnesota	Accident Number:	CEN20CA101
Date & Time:	February 22, 2020, 15:50 Local	Registration:	N550FK
Aircraft:	Cessna A185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while on the base leg, he decided to perform a three-point landing with "2 notches of flaps." During the landing flare, the pilot realized the airplane was a "bit high," so he moved the flaps to the fourth notch to avoid bouncing during the landing. The tailwheel touched down first, and the airplane then bounced on its main landing gear and drifted right. The pilot attempted to correct by adding power and initiating a go-around, but the right main landing gear contacted a snowbank on the edge of the runway, and the airplane ground looped and then came to rest on its nose. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's improper landing flare and touchdown, which resulted in a bounced landing and loss of directional control and the airplane's subsequent impact with a snowbank and ground loop during an attempted go-around.

Findings

Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Snow/ice - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact
Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision during takeoff/land

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 25, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 20, 2018
Flight Time:	1738 hours (Total, all aircraft), 516 hours (Total, this make and model), 1563 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N550FK
Model/Series:	A185 F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1977	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18503229
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 2, 2019 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3525 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5078 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550-D15B
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.77 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Detroit Lakes, MN (DTL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Hawley, MN (04Y)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Hawley Municipal Airport 04Y	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1210 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	16	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3398 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Stop and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	46.884166,-96.350555(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sauer, Aaron
Additional Participating Persons:	Perry Ochsner; FAA; Fargo, ND
Original Publish Date:	August 27, 2020
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=100986

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