



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sebring, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA19CA291
Date & Time:	September 13, 2019, 19:30 Local	Registration:	N854T
Aircraft:	Beech 55	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear collapse	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, shortly after landing, the passenger, without his permission or guidance, retracted the landing gear. The airplane impacted the runway, slid about 600 ft, and then came to rest. The pilot-rated passenger reported that, without the pilot's guidance, he mistakenly raised the gear handle then quickly lowered it again, thinking it was the flap handle, and that he was attempting to assist the pilot. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the center wing spar.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The passenger's inadvertent retraction of the landing gear during the landing roll without being instructed to do so by the pilot.

Findings

Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Passenger
Aircraft	Landing gear selector - Unintentional use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Miscellaneous/other
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 24, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 19, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 645 hours (Total, all aircraft), 90 hours (Total, this make and model), 470 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 21 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Pilot-rated passenger Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument airplane; Instrument helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 6, 1979
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N854T
Model/Series:	55 E55	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1974	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	TE-998
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550 Series
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSEF, 63 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	22:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	131°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	13 knots / 16 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	60°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.97 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fort Pierce, FL (FPR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sebring, FL (SEF)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	19:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Sebring Rgnl SEF	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	61 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	01	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5234 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	27.456388,-81.342498(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gutierrez, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Peter Kandravi; FAA / FSDO; Orlando , FL
Original Publish Date:	June 16, 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=100987

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