



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Hanksville, Utah	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR20CA139
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 5, 2020, 18:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N89SJ
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 180	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the takeoff roll in the tailwheel equipped airplane, he felt a gust of wind hit the airplane. When the tail came up, he was unable to maintain directional control and the airplane veered to the right, departed the runway onto rocks, and ground looped. The right wing and fuselage were substantially damaged.

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 failure to maintain directional control during the takeoff roll, which resulted in a runway excursion and ground-loop.

### Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	64, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 26, 2019
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	June 13, 2019
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 2577 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1290 hours (Total, this make and model), 2577 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Passenger Information

<b>Certificate:</b>		<b>Age:</b>	Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>		<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>		<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N89SJ
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180 H	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1968	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	18051923
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 1, 2019 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2800 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	6650.6 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	C126 installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470- SERIES
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	260 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	CNY,4590 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	68 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	22:55 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	240°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	7 knots / 15 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	Unknown / Terrain-Induced
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	170°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	Unknown / Light
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Moab, UT (CNY )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Hanksville, UT (UT03)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Hite UT03	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	3840 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	W	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2200 ft / 40 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.349998,-110.230003(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Bledsoe, James
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Jeff Smith; SLC FSDO; Salt Lake City, UT
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	February 2, 2021
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101245">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101245</a>

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