



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Kalispell, Montana                   | <b>Accident Number:</b> | WPR20CA250  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | August 3, 2020, 08:37 Local          | <b>Registration:</b>    | N185GK      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Cessna A185                          | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Runway excursion                     | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 3 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

The pilot of a tailwheel equipped airplane reported that, while on final approach to land, the approach speed was too fast. During the landing roll on a wet 1,500 ft long grass runway, braking action was poor, and the pilot was unable to stop the airplane. Subsequently, the airplane overran the departure end of the runway and impacted a fence.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

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 excessive speed while landing on a wet grass runway, which resulted in a runway excursion and impact with a fence.

## Findings

|                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Aircraft</b>             | Airspeed - Not attained/maintained |
| <b>Personnel issues</b>     | Aircraft control - Pilot           |
| <b>Environmental issues</b> | Wet surface - Effect on equipment  |

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Landing</b> | Runway excursion (Defining event)  |
| <b>Landing</b> | Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) |

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |               |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor   | <b>Age:</b>                              | 65,Female     |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land   | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left          |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None   | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   | 4-point       |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane   | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No            |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane   | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No            |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 1 With waivers/limitations   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | April 2, 2020 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | Yes  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> | March 7, 2020 |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | (Estimated) 24500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1000 hours (Total, this make and model), 13000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |               |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                              |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Cessna                       | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N185GK          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | A185 F                       | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          | 1978                         | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                       | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 18503687        |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tailwheel                    | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | October 1, 2019 Annual       | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 3350 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |                              | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 2580 Hrs at time of accident | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | Continental     |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | C91 installed, not activated | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | IO-520-FCD      |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | On file                      | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 300 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> | KGPI,2973 ft msl                 | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 8 Nautical Miles     |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 14:55 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 347°                 |
| <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>                | 8 knots /                        | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | None / None          |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 60°                              | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | N/A / N/A            |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30.02 inches Hg                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 19°C / 12°C          |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                      |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Stevensville, MT (32S)           | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | VFR                  |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | Kalispell, MT (PVT)              | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | VFR flight following |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 07:45 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    | Class G              |

## Airport Information

|                             |                 |                                  |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | PVT PVT         | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Grass/turf            |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 2963 ft msl     | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Wet                   |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 12              | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None                  |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 1500 ft / 50 ft | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Full stop;Straight-in |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 2 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                       |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                       |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 3 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 48.167221,-114.214996(est) |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Gutierrez, Eric   |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | Luke Watters; FAA; Helena, MT<br>John M Cosenza; FAA; Helena, MT  |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | May 6, 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=101728">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101728</a> |

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