



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Three Rivers, Michigan	Accident Number:	CEN20CA358
Date & Time:	August 18, 2020, 22:00 Local	Registration:	N133PJ
Aircraft:	Champion 8GCBC	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was in a hurry after landing and exited the runway early (before the taxiway). He stated that he was not paying attention and the airplane collided with a taxiway sign. The airplane nosed over, substantially damaging the vertical stabilizer and rudder. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical anomalies 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 clearance from a taxiway sign after landing.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Sign/marker - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Miscellaneous/other
Taxi-from runway	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event)
Taxi	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	54,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 30, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	867 hours (Total, all aircraft), 47 hours (Total, this make and model), 829 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Champion	Registration:	N133PJ
Model/Series:	8GCBC No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2006	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	486-2006
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
Registered Owner:	AICO	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	AICO	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HAI	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Mendon, MI	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Three Rivers, MI (HAI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Three Rivers Muni Dr Haines HAI	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	822 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.958889,-85.592224(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Baker, Daniel
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Matthews; FAA; Grand Rapids, MI
Original Publish Date:	February 2, 2021
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101849

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