

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Arlington, Washington Accident Number: WPR21LA189

Date & Time: May 7, 2021, 16:05 Local Registration: N31B

Aircraft: Cessna 180J 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 before landing, the automated weather report for the airport indicated the wind from 250° at 13 knots, gusting to 17 knots. During the landing in the tailwheel equipped airplane on runway 29, the airplane weathervaned hard to the left into the wind. Despite his actions to control the airplane during the crosswind landing, the airplane departed the runway, and both wings impacted terrain. The airplane came to rest in a nose down attitude. The right wing was substantially damaged. The pilot reported that shortly after the accident, the wind had increased to 23 knots. 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 landing, with a crosswind, which resulted in a runway excursion and subsequent impact with terrain.

Findings

Aircraft Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Environmental issues Crosswind - Effect on operation

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	62,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 8, 2020
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	24000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2050 hours (Total, this make and model), 20109 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 215 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Female
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Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N31B
Model/Series:	180J	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1974	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	None	Serial Number:	18052431
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 1, 2020 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	65 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	11242 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	0-470 SERIES
Registered Owner:	BOHON TODD R	Rated Power:	230 Horsepower
Operator:	BOHON TODD R	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAW0,137 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	4°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 12000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / 15 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.26 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Arlington, WA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Arlington, WA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

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Airport Information

Airport:	ARLINGTON MUNI AWO	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	141 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11/29	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3498 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	48.16075,-122.15902(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Swick, Andrew

Additional Participating
Persons:

Original Publish Date: August 20, 2021

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class 4

Note: The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=103060

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 United States Code section 1154(b) is available here.

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