



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Accident, Maryland | Accident Number: | ERA23LA069 |
| Date & Time: | October 28, 2022, 16:00 Local | Registration: | N68531 |
| Aircraft: | Bellanca 7KCAB | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 1 Minor |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

The pilot reported that while on a personal flight he was attempting to execute a crosswind landing when the airplane encountered a gust of wind that raised the right wing and the airplane “weather vaned” to the right and into the wind. He applied full left rudder to correct the airplane’s direction but was unable. The airplane departed the right side of the runway, went down an embankment, and nosed over coming to rest nearly inverted. Both wings were substantially damaged during the accident. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 landing roll in crosswind conditions.

Findings

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| Aircraft | Directional control - Not attained/maintained |
| Personnel issues | Aircraft control - Pilot |
| Environmental issues | Crosswind - Response/compensation |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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| Landing | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
| Landing-landing roll | Runway excursion |
| Landing | Nose over/nose down |

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 60, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land | Seat Occupied: | Front |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | Lap only |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | |
| Medical Certification: | BasicMed With waivers/limitations | Last FAA Medical Exam: | November 20, 2019 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | February 28, 2022 |
| Flight Time: | 525 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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| Aircraft Make: | Bellanca | Registration: | N68531 |
| Model/Series: | 7KCAB | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1972 | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Aerobatic; Normal | Serial Number: | 321-72 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | April 3, 2022 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1650 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 5 Hrs | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 475 Hrs at time of accident | Engine Manufacturer: | LYCOMING |
| ELT: | Not installed | Engine Model/Series: | IO-320 E2A |
| Registered Owner: | On file | Rated Power: | 150 Horsepower |
| Operator: | On file | 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: | 2G4,2933 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 16:00 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 360° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 9 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | None / None |
| Wind Direction: | 150° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | N/A / N/A |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.39 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 8°C / 1°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Perry, NY (01G) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Wadesboro, NC (AFP) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 14:00 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Airport: | GARRETT COUNTY 2G4 | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 2933 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 09 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 5000 ft / 75 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop;Traffic pattern |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Minor | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Minor | Latitude, Longitude: | 39.580798,-79.336014(est) |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Young, Joshua |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Andrew Knowlton; FAA/FSDO; Linthicum Heights, MD |
| Original Publish Date: | February 23, 2023 |
| Last Revision Date: | |
| Investigation Class: | Class 4 |
| Note: | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106347 |

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](#).