



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: CHARLEVOIX, Michigan Accident Number: CHI87DEM12

Date & Time: August 25, 1987, 10:30 Local Registration: N76SC

Aircraft: PITTS S-1 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

DURING LANDING ON A SHORT SOD STRIP WITH A CROSS WIND THE PILOT LOST CONTROL WHEN EXCESSIVE BRAKES WERE APPLIED. THE AIRCRAFT NOSED OVER. THE PLT STATED THAT AFTER LANDING HE APPLIED THE BRAKES AND THE ACFT ASSUMED ABOUT A 45 DEGREE NOSE DOWN ATTITUDE AND THE WHEEL PANTS DUG IN WHICH TRIPPED THE ACFT. THE MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED REARWARD AND THE PROP STRUCK THE GROUND, AS THE ACFT NOSED OVER. THE PLT OPERATED HEAVY ACFT FOR A COMMERCIAL AIRLINE AND HAD LIMITED TIME IN THE TYPE ACFT. HE RECOMMENDED USING LESS BRAKING AND A LONG RWY FOR LANDING.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

- 1. (C) BRAKES(NORMAL) IMPROPER USE OF PILOT IN COMMAND
- 2. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION CROSSWIND

Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

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Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight engineer; Flight instructor	Age:	35,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical-no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 21, 1987
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	9364 hours (Total, all aircraft), 13 hours (Total, this make and model), 9200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 278 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PITTS	Registration:	N76SC
Model/Series:	S-1 S-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	1001
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 26, 1987 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1050 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	456 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4A
Registered Owner:	THOMAS EUGENE BULLARD	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	THOMAS EUGEN BULLARD	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TVC ,624 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	09:45 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	200°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipit	ation	
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:24 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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Airport Information

Airport:	CHARLEVOIX MUNICIPAL CVX	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	657 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1310 ft / 300 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	45.31047,-85.249534(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Elliott, Will

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: December 27, 1988

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=13571

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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