



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	RAPELJE, Montana	Accident Number:	DEN89LA106
Date & Time:	April 10, 1989, 08:00 Local	Registration:	N731XG
Aircraft:	CESSNA A188B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL AG PLT WAS OPERATING A SINGLE PLACE CESSNA 188 FROM A ROAD NEAR RAPELJE, MT. THE PLT ESTIMATED THE WINDS FROM THE WEST AT 5 KTS, GUSTING TO 12 KTS. DURING A LANDING TO THE NORTH TO RELOAD WITH FERTILIZER, A GUST OF WIND STRUCK THE ACFT AND THE PLT SAID HE LOST DIRECTIONAL CONTROL. THE ACFT DEPARTED THE ROAD TO THE LEFT AND STRUCK A DITCH, DAMAGING THE LEFT MAIN GEAR AND LEFT WING.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE INADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THE WIND CONDITIONS BY THE PILOT WHICH RESULTED IN A LOSS OF DIRECTIONAL CONTROL ON LANDING AND SUBSEQUENT COLLISION WITH A DITCH.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
4. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

- 5. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - ROADWAY/HIGHWAY
- 6. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

- 7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Center
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 2 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 30, 1988
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	14400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4000 hours (Total, this make and model), 14335 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 39 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N731XG
Model/Series:	A188B A188B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	18803233T
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 19, 1988 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	135 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2469 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
Registered Owner:	YELLOWSTONE AIR SERVICE	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	CEI-

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots / 12 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	(NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	06:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	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:	45.950962,-109.269813(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Collins, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	PAUL FLOOD; HELENA , MT
Original Publish Date:	August 2, 1990
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17696

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