

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: DEER, Arkansas Accident Number: FTW96LA032

Date & Time: October 22, 1995, 14:30 Local Registration: N7421M

Aircraft: CESSNA 175 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 4 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

AFTER LOCATING THE 2,000-FOOT GRASS AIRSTRIP, THE PILOT CIRCLED AT 1,000 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND AND ENTERED A LEFT HAND PATTERN FOR RUNWAY 27. THE PILOT ESTIMATED THAT THE SURFACE WINDS WERE FROM 200 TO 220 DEGREES AT APPROXIMATELY 20 KNOTS. THE PILOT ENCOUNTERED MODERATE TURBULENCE WHILE IN THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AND REPORTED ENCOUNTERING SEVERE TURBULENCE AND A DOWNDRAFT PRIOR TO TOUCHING DOWN. THE PILOT STATED THAT HE MANAGED TO CONTROL THE AIRPLANE AND TOUCHED DOWN AT ABOUT THE MIDPOINT OF THE STRIP. AFTER TOUCHDOWN THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE AIRPLANE; HOWEVER, THE AIRPLANE OVERRAN THE END OF THE RUNWAY AND IMPACTED BRUSH. THE PILOT STATED THAT 'THE WIND MUST HAVE CHANGED TO A TAILWIND,' AND 'JUST FELT LIKE A DOWNWIND LANDING BUT IT STILL LOOKED LIKE I HAD ROOM TO GET IT STOPPED.' THE WINDS AT HARRISON, ARKANSAS, 29 MILES NORTH, WERE REPORTED FROM 170 DEGREES AT 18 KNOTS, GUSTING TO 26 KNOTS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S SELECTION OF A DOWNWIND RUNWAY FOR LANDING. FACTORS WERE THE TAILWIND AND THE PILOT'S MISINTERPRETATION OF THE WIND CONDITIONS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: OVERRUN

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND

- 2. (F) WEATHER EVALUATION IMPROPER PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION TAILWIND
- 4. (C) WRONG RUNWAY SELECTED PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY OVERRUN AREA - HIGH VEGETATION

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Factual Information

On October 22, 1995, at 1430 central daylight time, a Cessna 175, N7421M, was substantially damaged while landing near Deer, Arkansas. The commercial pilot and his 3 passengers escaped uninjured. The airplane was being operated as a personal flight under Title 14 CFR Part 91. The flight originated in Dover, Arkansas, at 1400. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the cross country flight for which a flight plan was not filed.

According to the pilot, after locating his destination airport he circled the airport at 1,000 feet above the ground and entered a left hand pattern for runway 27. He configured the airplane for a powered approach with 10 degrees of flaps, while maintaining 65 miles per hour. The pilot further stated that he estimated that the winds were from 200 to 220 degrees at approximately 20 knots. The pilot stated that he encountered moderate turbulence while in the pattern, and "while over the first 1/4 of the runway he encountered severe turbulence and a downdraft"; however, he managed to control the airplane and "touch down about the midfield point."

The pilot stated that "the wind must have changed to a tailwind," and "just felt like a downwind landing but it still looked like I had room to get it stopped." The pilot stated that the "tailwind extended my roll out and I went beyond the mowed runway into the rough area." The airplane overran the end of the 2,000 foot mowed grass runway, impacting brush. The nose landing gear collapsed and the engine firewall and the fuselage were damaged.

The winds at Harrison, Arkansas, located 29 nautical miles north of the accident site, were reported from 170 degrees at 18 knots, gusting to 26 knots. The density altitude was estimated at 3,500 feet.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	68,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medicalw/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 23, 1994
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3075 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model), 2981 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N7421M
Model/Series:	175 175	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	55721
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 6, 1995 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	2 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2142 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	GO-300-A
Registered Owner:	F.L. & BONITA J. MOSLEY	Rated Power:	175 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HRO ,2100 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	29 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	350°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2000 ft AGL	Visibility	20 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	18 knots / 26 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	DOVER , AR (AR89)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	TAYLOR AIRSTRIP NONE	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	2160 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2000 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	35.839435,-93.2798(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Casanova, Hector

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: February 14, 1996

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=19699

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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