



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	NEWHALL, California	Accident Number:	LAX92LA261
Date & Time:	June 24, 1992, 14:20 Local	Registration:	N76962
Aircraft:	CESSNA 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE STUDENT PILOT INITIATED A SOLO CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT INTO A MOUNTAIN PASS. EN ROUTE THE PILOT ENCOUNTERED TURBULENCE, DOWNDRAFTS, AND WAS UNABLE TO OUT CLIMB THE RISING ELEVATION OF THE TERRAIN. THE PILOT REVERSED COURSE AND MADE A PRECAUTIONARY LANDING ON A ROAD. DURING ROLLLOUT THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH A FENCE AND A BERM. NO EVIDENCE WAS PRESENTED TO THE SAFETY BOARD SHOWING THAT THE STUDENT PILOT'S FLIGHT HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY A CFI OR THAT THE PILOT WAS CURRENT. THE FAA HAD PREVIOUSLY WARNED THE PILOT NOT TO PERFORM UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHTS IN HIS AIRPLANE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S POOR JUDGMENT AND HIS OVERCONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITY TO FLY HIS AIRPLANE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. OBJECT - FENCE
2. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. (C) OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND

4. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - BERM

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	36, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	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 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 24, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 40 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N76962
Model/Series:	140 140	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	25063-6-12
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 25, 1991 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1470 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2829 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C-85-12
Registered Owner:	BRUCE A. GRIEVES	Rated Power:	85 Horsepower
Operator:	BRUCE A. GRIEVES	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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	20 knots / 30 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SANTA MONICA , CA (SMO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	GORMAN , CA (CL46)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Precautionary landing

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:	34.3605,-118.469535(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pollack, Wayne
Additional Participating Persons:	RICHARD WOLF; VAN NUYS , CA
Original Publish Date:	September 28, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=27659

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](#).