



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	HOLLISTER, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX97LA203
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 8, 1997, 18:35 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3343D
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 180	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The aircraft was destroyed by fire following a ground loop during a touch-and-go landing. The pilot stated that he did not place the elevator in the full up position after landing, which he felt reduced directional response to both the aerodynamic rudder and the steerable tail wheel. When the aircraft began to veer to the left, he added full power in an attempt to go around, which torqued the aircraft into a fully developed ground loop. During the ground loop, the right wingtip contacted the ground which caused the wing fuel tank to start leaking. The fuel was subsequently ignited and the fire consumed the aircraft.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper use of the elevator and his subsequent failure to maintain directional control during a touch-and-go landing. A factor in the accident was the pilot's application of full power following the loss of directional control, which increased the turning moment already generated by the initial swerve.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) ELEVATOR - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND

2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) THROTTLE/POWER CONTROL - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

## Factual Information

On June 8, 1997, at 1835 hours Pacific daylight time, a Cessna 180, N3343D, ground looped while the pilot was practicing touch-and-go landings at Frazier Lake Airpark, Hollister, California. The aircraft came to rest at the edge of the runway and was destroyed by fire. The private pilot, the sole occupant, evacuated the aircraft with no injuries and there was no property damage. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal flight and no flight plan was filed for the local flight.

The pilot stated in his report that he did not bring the wheel back to place the elevator in the full up position after landing, which he felt reduced directional response to both the aerodynamic rudder and the steerable tail wheel. Then, when the aircraft began to veer to the left, he attempted to go around, but the application of power caused the aircraft to veer harder to the left into a fully developed ground loop. The right wingtip contacted the ground which caused the wing fuel tank to start leaking. The fuel was subsequently ignited and consumed the aircraft.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	61, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	September 6, 1996
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	273 hours (Total, all aircraft), 39 hours (Total, this make and model), 110 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N3343D
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180 180	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	32141
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 7, 1997 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2550 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	1 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4104 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470J
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	WILLIAM H. SCOTT	<b>Rated Power:</b>	225 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	SNS ,84 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	21 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:45 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	187°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 4000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	20 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	15 knots / 3 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	330°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	18°C / 11°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class E

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	FRAZIER LAKE AIRPARK 1C9	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	151 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	23	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2500 ft / 75 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Touch and go

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	36.890747,-121.240112(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Armstrong, Weldon
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	SHAWN STAGES; SAN JOSE , CA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 4, 1998
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29806">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29806</a>

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