



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | EAST GLACIER, Montana                | <b>Accident Number:</b> | SEA91LA138  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | June 15, 1991, 21:20 Local           | <b>Registration:</b>    | N7468M      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | CESSNA C175                          | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |                                      | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 Minor     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

THE PILOT OF THE CESSNA 175 STATED THAT THE WIND WAS BLOWING DOWN THE RUNWAY AT THIRTY TO FORTY KNOTS, WITH MODERATE TURBULENCE WHEN HE ENTERED THE PATTERN AT THE PRIVATE GRASS AIRSTRIP. HE SELECTED HALF FLAPS AS HE TURNED FINAL APPROACH BUT RAISED THE FLAPS TO THE FULL UP POSITION BECAUSE HE FELT THE WINDS AND TURBULENCE HAD INCREASED. AS THE AIRCRAFT CROSSED THE THRESHOLD THE PILOT REDUCED POWER CAUSING THE STALL WARNING HORN TO ACTIVATE. THE PILOT IMMEDIATELY ADDED POWER, BUT THE AIRCRAFT LANDED HARD BEFORE HE COULD RECOVER.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT AIRSPEED. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS: THE GUSTY WIND CONDITIONS AND THE PILOT'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS TYPE OF OPERATION.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

- Findings
1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

2. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |                  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 47, Male         |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land   | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Unknown          |
| <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>     |  | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No               |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | December 5, 1989 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | UNK  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |                  |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 209 hours (Total, all aircraft), 209 hours (Total, this make and model), 187 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |                  |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                      |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | CESSNA               | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N7468M          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | C175 C175            | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                      | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    |                      | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 55768           |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tricycle             | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | Unknown              | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2350 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 0 Hrs                | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |                      | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | CONTINENTAL     |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, activated | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | GO 300-C        |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | LOUIS A. SITZMANN JR | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 175 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | LOUIS A. SITZMANN JR | <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>                  | Dusk        |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> |                                  | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         |             |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                |                                  | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        |             |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Scattered                        | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles    |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |             |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 30 knots / 40 knots              | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /           |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 270°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /           |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               |                                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 7°C / -18°C |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |             |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | BRIGHAM CITY , UT (BMC )         | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None        |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     |                                  | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None        |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 16:20 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    |             |

## Airport Information

|                             |                 |                                  |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | GALLUP FIELD 06 | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Grass/turf |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 4900 ft msl     | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Wet        |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 0               | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None       |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 2600 ft / 90 ft | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Full stop  |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |         |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 Minor | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> |         | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                       |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A     | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                       |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 1 Minor | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 48.410343,-113.309677(est) |

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Anderson, Orrin

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** February 8, 1993

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=41456>

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