



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Houma, Louisiana	Accident Number:	FTW02TA007
Date & Time:	October 3, 2001, 09:00 Local	Registration:	N727
Aircraft:	Cessna A185F	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

The pilot was landing the amphibian airplane on a hard surface runway when he "flared too high and made a hard landing." One of the airplane's fuselage bulkheads sustained structural damage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's high flare, which resulted in a hard landing.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLARE - HIGH - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On October 3, 2001, at 0900 central daylight time, a Cessna A185F floatplane, N727, was substantially damaged during a hard landing at the Houma-Terrebonne Airport, Houma, Louisiana. The airplane was registered to the U.S. Department of the Interior and was operated by the U.S. Geological Survey. The commercial pilot, who was the sole occupant, was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and an instrument flight rules flight plan was filed for the 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 positioning flight. The flight departed Lafayette, Louisiana, at 0800.

According to a representative from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the pilot was landing on runway 18 at Houma, when he flared too high and made a hard landing. The representative stated that one of the fuselage bulkheads sustained structural damage.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 10, 2001
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N727
Model/Series:	A185F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18504371
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - ; Amphibian	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 18, 2001 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	145 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6778 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550-D
Registered Owner:	U.S. Department of Interior	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	U.S. Geological Survey	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	U.S. Geological Survey	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	6 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Haze		
Departure Point:	Lafayette, LA (LFT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Houma, LA (HUM)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	08:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Houma-Terrebonne HUM	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	9 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	ILS
Runway Length/Width:	6508 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

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:	29.579008,-90.810096(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Charnon, Nicole
Additional Participating Persons:	Larry Brosnan; U.S. Department of the Interior; Boise, ID
Original Publish Date:	February 20, 2002
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=53580

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