



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |   |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Crystal River, Florida                    | <b>Accident Number:</b> | MIA02LA024  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | November 20, 2001, 15:00 Local            | <b>Registration:</b>    | N1385U      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Cessna 172M                               | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |   | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Instructional |                         |             |

## Analysis

The pilot stated that while taxiing the aircraft it collided with vehicles that were parked on the side of the taxiway, and the collision resulted in damage to both wings, as well as the top of the fuselage, at the wing attach points. According to the pilot, prior to the collision, there had been no mechanical failure or malfunction to the aircraft or to any of its systems.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to keep a proper visual lookout and ensure proper clearance during taxi operations, which resulted in a collision with vehicles.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. OBJECT - VEHICLE
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

On November 20, 2001, about 1500 eastern standard time, a Cessna 172M, N1385U, registered to, and operated by Crystal Aero Group, as a Title 14 CFR Part 91 instructional flight, collided with vehicles while taxiing at Crystal River Airport, Crystal River, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan had been filed. The private-rated pilot, sole occupant of the aircraft, was not injured, and the aircraft incurred substantial damage.

The pilot stated that after he had completed the flight, and while he was taxiing the aircraft, the right wing struck the extendable bucket on the back of a truck, which was parked on the side of the taxiway. The pilot said that the collision caused the aircraft to depart the taxiway to the right, and as it did so, the left wing then struck a parked van. The pilot said that the collision with both vehicles resulted in damage to both wings, as well as the top of the fuselage, at the wing attach points. According to the pilot, prior to the collision, there had been no mechanical failure or malfunction to the aircraft or to any of its systems.

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |                  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 44, 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>     | Airplane   | <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--no waivers/lim.   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | February 8, 2000 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | UNK  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> | April 6, 2001    |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 208 hours (Total, all aircraft), 199 hours (Total, this make and model), 166 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |                  |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                              |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Cessna                       | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N1385U          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | 172M                         | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                              | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                       | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 17267056        |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tricycle                     | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | October 29, 2001 100 hour    | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2550 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 33 Hrs                       | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 9107 Hrs at time of accident | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | Lycoming        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, not activated     | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | O-360-A4M       |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | Crystal Aero Group           | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 180 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     |                              | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |   |                   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day               |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | BKV, 77 ft msl                   | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 28 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 13:53 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 170°              |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear                            | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles          |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                   |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 8 knots / None                   | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                 |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 280°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                 |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30 inches Hg                     | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 25°C / 15°C       |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                   |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Crystal River, FL (CGC)          | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None              |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     |                                  | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | Unknown           |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 13:00 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    | Unknown           |

## Airport Information

|                             |                           |                                  |         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | Crystal River Airport CGC | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      |         |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 10 ft msl                 | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         |                           | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> |                           | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Unknown |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                           |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <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 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 28.849197,-82.669151(est) |

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Lovell, John

**Additional Participating Persons:** David Smith; FAA FSDO; Tampa, FL

**Original Publish Date:** February 5, 2002

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=53818>

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