



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | CHARLESTON, South Carolina | Accident Number: | ATL84LA152 |
| Date & Time: | April 25, 1984, 14:37 Local | Registration: | N85052 |
| Aircraft: | BEECH E55 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 2 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

AFTER THE LANDING THE ACFT LANDING GEAR RETRACTED DURING A PERIOD OF MAXIMUM BRAKING TO AVOID AN ARRESTING CABLE. DURING THE EXAMINATION OF THE LANDING GEAR DOOR DAMAGE IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE LANDING GEAR WAS RETRACTED DURING THE LANDING ROLL.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: COMPLETE GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (C) GEAR RETRACTION - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| Certificate: | Commercial; Flight instructor | Age: | 68, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land; Multi-engine land | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim | Last FAA Medical Exam: | November 14, 1983 |
| Occupational Pilot: | Yes | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 18560 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model), 18560 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | BEECH | Registration: | N85052 |
| Model/Series: | E55 E55 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | TE-1095 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Retractable - Tricycle | Seats: | 6 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | October 12, 1983 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 5300 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 60 Hrs | Engines: | 2 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 736 Hrs | Engine Manufacturer: | CONTINENTAL |
| ELT: | | Engine Model/Series: | IO-520-C |
| Registered Owner: | JOHN E. BLACKWELL | Rated Power: | 285 Horsepower |
| Operator: | HENRY J. WURSTER | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------------------|---|------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | CHS ,45 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | |
| Observation Time: | 14:51 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 15 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 13 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 270° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 29 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 29°C / 9°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | JOHN ISLAND , SC (JZI) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | | Type of Clearance: | VFR |
| Departure Time: | 00:00 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class E |

Airport Information

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Airport: | CHARLESTON AFB CHS | Runway Surface Type: | Concrete |
| Airport Elevation: | 45 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 33 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 9001 ft / 200 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 32.899295,-80.060066(est) |

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Drake, John

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6443>

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](#).