



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	La Salle, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN07CA052
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 17, 2007, 15:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N1670V
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 120	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot said he was "dragging" the airstrip, or flying low over the runway to ascertain its condition. He allowed the airplane to get too low. The wheels contacted the deep snow and the airplane nosed over. Examination of the airplane revealed a buckled right lift strut and a crushed vertical fin and rudder.

## 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 clearance from the ground. Contributing factors included the pilot's intentional low pass and his misjudging his altitude.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. (F) LOW PASS - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

## Factual Information

According to the pilot, he was "dragging" the snow covered airstrip, or flying low over the runway to ascertain its condition. He allowed the airplane to get too low. The wheels contacted the deep snow and the airplane nosed over. Examination of the airplane revealed a buckled right lift strut and a crushed vertical fin and rudder.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	25, 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 1 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	December 1, 2006
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	October 1, 2005
<b>Flight Time:</b>	416 hours (Total, all aircraft), 196 hours (Total, this make and model), 395 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 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>	N1670V
<b>Model/Series:</b>	120	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	13842
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	April 1, 2006 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1450 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	130 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4230 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	C-85
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Johnathan P. Lemley	<b>Rated Power:</b>	85 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>	GXY,4697 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<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>	0 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.87 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	-9°C / -13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Greeley, CO (GXY)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	(GXY)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Low Level Ag Airstrip NONE	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Dirt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	4711 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Snow;Soft
<b>Runway Used:</b>	11	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3000 ft / 40 ft	<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>	40.333889,-104.686943

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Scott, Arnold
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Gary S Dupertuis; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Denver, CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 26, 2007
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65187">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65187</a>

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