



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Quincy, California	Accident Number:	LAX07CA166
Date & Time:	May 12, 2007, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N98041
Aircraft:	Piper J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane nosed over and came to rest inverted during the landing roll. The purpose of the flight was for the pilot to practice landings in an open pasture. The pasture was flat with a cover of grass about 5 inches in height. He began a normal wheel landing in the pasture. After touchdown he applied brake pressure and attempted to keep the tail up with the elevator control. He continued to apply brake pressure and as the airplane slowed, the tail rose upward. The airplane nosed over to inverted. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or engine. The tail and right wing sustained damage during the accident sequence.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's excessive use of the brakes, which resulted in a nose over.

Findings

Occurrence #1: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - GRASS
2. (C) BRAKES(NORMAL) - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

The airplane nosed over and came to rest inverted during the landing roll. In a written statement, the pilot reported that the purpose of the flight was to practice landings in an open pasture on his family's property. The pasture was flat with a cover of grass about 5 inches in height. He began a normal wheel landing in the pasture, where after touchdown he applied brake pressure and attempted to keep the tail up with the elevator control. He continued to apply brake pressure and the as the airplane slowed the tail rose upward. The airplane nosed over, coming to rest inverted.

The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or engine. The tail and right wing sustained damage during the accident sequence.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	25, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 1, 2005
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	365 hours (Total, all aircraft), 55 hours (Total, this make and model), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N98041
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18188
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

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	25 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Quincy, CA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Quincy, CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Private Pasture NONE	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	00	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		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:	
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.957221,-120.897781

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Keliher, Zoe
Additional Participating Persons:	Donald Morgan; Federal Aviation Administration; Reno, NV
Original Publish Date:	July 25, 2007
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65780

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