



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Garwood, Texas	Accident Number:	DFW07CA174
Date & Time:	July 30, 2007, 09:00 Local	Registration:	N9298R
Aircraft:	Cessna A188B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The 1,457-hour commercial pilot lost control of the tailwheel-equipped agricultural airplane while attempting to depart from a 2,400-foot long unimproved private grass airstrip. The pilot reported that while departing on a southerly heading he was "dodging pot holes and mud holes" on the airstrip. The spray booms under the wings became entangled with tall grass resulting in a loss of directional control. The airplane exited the right side of the airstrip, the right wing collided with a fence post and the airplane "ran through a ditch." An FAA inspector interviewed the pilot, who confirmed the accident sequence. The inspector recorded structural damage. On the Airport Information block of the accident report form, the pilot categorized the runway as "dirt" and further described the condition of the runway as "holes," "rough," "soft," and "wet." At about 5 minutes after the mishap, the nearest weather reporting station, located 27-nautical miles to the south-east of the accident site, reported winds calm, visibility 5 statute miles with mist, temperature 84 degrees Fahrenheit, dew point 81 degrees Fahrenheit, and barometric pressure of 29.93 inches of Mercury. The density altitude was calculated at 1,776 feet.

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 proper clearance from terrain/obstacles. A contributing factor was the runway conditions.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - NOT MAINTAINED
2. (C) WING - CLEARANCE
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - GRASS

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

5. OBJECT - FENCE POST
6. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Factual Information

The 1,457-hour commercial pilot lost control of the tailwheel-equipped agricultural airplane while attempting to depart from a 2,400-foot long unimproved private grass airstrip. The pilot reported that while departing on a southerly heading he was "dodging pot holes and mud holes" on the airstrip. The spray booms under the wings became entangled with tall grass resulting in a loss of directional control. The airplane exited the right side of the airstrip, the right wing collided with a fence post and the airplane "ran through a ditch." An FAA inspector interviewed the pilot, who confirmed the accident sequence. The inspector recorded structural damage. On the Airport Information block of the accident report form, the pilot categorized the runway as "dirt" and further described the condition of the runway as "holes," "rough," "soft," and "wet." At about 5 minutes after the mishap, the nearest weather reporting station, located 27-nautical miles to the south-east of the accident site, reported winds calm, visibility 5 statute miles with mist, temperature 84 degrees Fahrenheit, dew point 81 degrees Fahrenheit, and barometric pressure of 29.93 inches of Mercury. The density altitude was calculated at 1,776 feet.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	33, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 1, 2006
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 1, 2007
Flight Time:	1457 hours (Total, all aircraft), 348 hours (Total, this make and model), 1349 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 348 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 348 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9298R
Model/Series:	A188B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility; Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	18802224T
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 1, 2007 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4557.8 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
Registered Owner:	Michael L. Thompson	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	Brian Johnson	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ARM	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	09:05 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	120°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	0 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 27°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	In the vicinity - None - Mist		
Departure Point:	Garwood, TX	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Garwood, TX	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	176 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Holes;Rough;Soft;Wet
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	30.5375,-96.524169

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Aguilera, Jason
Additional Participating Persons:	Brian Gallagher; Houston, Texas
Original Publish Date:	October 31, 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=66333

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