



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Kutztown, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	NYC08CA203
Date & Time:	May 29, 2008, 13:00 Local	Registration:	N511MH
Aircraft:	Cessna 180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the Cessna 180 was of a small stature and required the aid of additional seat cushions in order to operate the airplane. After completing an uneventful flight and landing on a turf runway, the pilot taxied the airplane clear of the area. While turning off the runway area, the nose of the airplane started to "drop." The pilot attempted to arrest the "drop" by pulling aft on the control yoke, but had to brace herself to do so. She then inadvertently stepped on the brakes, and the airplane "nosed over," resulting in substantial damage to the wing spar. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions with the airplane prior to the accident.

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 aircraft control.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Brake - Unintentional use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 1, 2006
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 1, 2007
Flight Time:	239 hours (Total, all aircraft), 31 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N511MH
Model/Series:	180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	30570
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 1, 2007 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	11612 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-J
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	225 Horsepower
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:	RDG,344 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots / 15 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	300°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Allentown, PA (1N9)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Kutztown, PA (N31)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Kutztown Airport N31	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	512 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:	2221 ft / 150 ft	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:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.503334,-75.786941

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gunther, Todd
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Ference; FAA/FSDO; Allentown, PA
Original Publish Date:	July 30, 2008
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=68160

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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](#).