

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Indiantown, Florida Accident Number: NYC08CA205

Date & Time: June 3, 2008, 12:45 Local Registration: N37012

Aircraft: Luscombe 8A Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power) **Injuries:** 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Instructional

Analysis

The Luscombe 8A was taking off from a turf runway, and had climbed to an altitude of about 10 feet above ground level, when the left rudder cable failed. The airplane yawed to the right and the left wing and nose contacted the ground. The airplane subsequently came to rest on the right side of the runway and sustained substantial damage to the left wing and fuselage. Examination of the airplane revealed that the left rudder cable had separated at the first pulley under the cabin floor. The separated end of the cable was frayed and displayed evidence of corrosion. The airplane had been operated for about 25 hours since its most recent annual inspection, which was performed about 11 months prior to the accident. At the time of the inspection, a mechanic noted that the control cables were inspected for damage per a required Airworthiness Directive.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: An inadequate annual inspection that failed to detect a damaged rudder cable which resulted in the cable's subsequent failure during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft Rudder control system - Damaged/degraded

Personnel issues Scheduled/routine inspection - Maintenance personnel

Aircraft Rudder control system - Failure

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power) (Defining event)

Takeoff Loss of control in flight

Uncontrolled descent Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	66.Male
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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:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 1, 2007
Flight Time:	631 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Total, this make and model), 544 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	82,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Luscombe	Registration:	N37012
Model/Series:	8A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1678
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 1, 2007 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1260 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	24 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1920 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Teledyne Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A65-8
Registered Owner:	Treasurer Coast Sport Flyers	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

meteorological informati	<u> </u>		
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OBE,34 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:45 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	300°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	0 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 22°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Indiantown, FL (X58)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Stuart, FL (SUA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

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Airport Information

Airport:	Indiantown X58	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	30 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6300 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	27.0375,-80.441108

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Schiada, Luke
Additional Participating Persons:	Barry Byrd; FAA/FSDO; Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Original Publish Date:	August 28, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68163

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.

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