



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	MARION, Montana	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN82DA087
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 15, 1982, 16:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4175Y
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 185A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT WHEN HE WAS ON FINAL APPROACH, HE LOST ALL CONTROL, WHILE AT AN AIRSPEED OF ABOUT 74 MPH, AND THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK THE GROUND IN A NOSE LOW ATTITUDE. HE REPORTED THAT THE WIND WAS VARIABLE AT 10 GUSTING 20 KTS. ABOUT 35 MILES AWAY AT KALISPELL, MT, THE WIND WAS REPORTED FROM 240 DEGREES AT 5 KTS. THE DENSITY ALTITUDE WAS ABOUT 5000 FT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

#### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
4. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	40, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	August 31, 1981
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2478 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1600 hours (Total, this make and model), 2369 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N4175Y
<b>Model/Series:</b>	185A 185A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	1850375
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	110 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2665 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-470-F
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	TOMAHAWK FLIGHT ENTERPRISES	<b>Rated Power:</b>	260 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	TOMAHAWK FLIGHT ENTERPRISES	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	FCA	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	35 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	21:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	35°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 4500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	72°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MARION , MT	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	MARION , MT	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	LOST PRAIRIE-CARSON FIELD	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Dirt;Gravel
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	30	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	4000 ft / 70 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Traffic pattern

## 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>	48.109043,-114.789855(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):**

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** May 15, 1983

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=71583>

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](#).