



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Montrose, Colorado	Accident Number:	CEN09CA249
Date & Time:	April 13, 2009, 16:00 Local	Registration:	N41427
Aircraft:	Piper J3C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, immediately after taking off, the prevailing wind shifted from a headwind to a tailwind and he was unable to maintain the aircraft's heading with the runway's centerline. The airplane was blown toward the runway edge and settled onto the dirt beside the runway. During the rollout, the airplane struck a taxiway location/runway holding position sign midway between the passenger compartment and the empennage, resulting in the empennage being bent approximately 70 degrees to the right. Weather reports at the time of the accident indicated that the wind was variable at 5 knots, with 10-mile visibility and clear skies. The pilot reported no mechanical anomalies with the airplane prior to the accident. An examination of the airplane revealed no mechanical anomalies.

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 directional control during the takeoff roll.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	45, 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:	August 8, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 22, 2007
Flight Time:	278 hours (Total, all aircraft), 98 hours (Total, this make and model), 216 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N41427
Model/Series:	J3C 65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility; Experimental light sport (Special)	Serial Number:	8043
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 8, 2009 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3627 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-200
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	100 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:	KMTJ	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / -4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Montrose, CO (KMTJ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Steamboat Sprin, CO (SBS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Montrose Regional Airport KMTJ	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5694 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	13	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7500 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.490722,-107.86943(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rodi, Jennifer
Additional Participating Persons:	Tanya Glines; FAA-Salt Lake City FSDO; Salt Lake City, UT Eric McRae; FAA-Salt Lake City FSDO; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	June 22, 2009
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=73653

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