



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Collins, Mississippi	Accident Number:	ERA09CA294
Date & Time:	May 14, 2009, 16:55 Local	Registration:	N7392S
Aircraft:	Cessna R182	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial observation		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was performing a pipeline patrol and was in a climbing left turn when the glare from the sun temporarily blinded him. As he reached up to manipulate the sun visors, the airplane's right wing impacted a 320-foot-tall radio antenna. After the collision, slight left rudder pressure was required to counter the airplane's right turning tendency. The rudder and elevator controls were unaffected and the pilot stated that he felt no vibration or buffeting. The pilot continued to his destination and landed uneventfully. After landing, he discovered that the airplane sustained damage to the right wing spar and the right aileron. The pilot added that there were no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane. He further stated that a heightened awareness of the exposure to potential obstructions in the pipeline patrol area might prevent a recurrence of this type of 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 clearance from an antenna during a low-altitude aerial observation flight. Contributing to the accident was the sun glare.

Findings

Environmental issues	Tower/antenna (incl guy wires) - Response/compensation
Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Glare - Effect on personnel

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 22, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 12, 2008
Flight Time:	42000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20000 hours (Total, this make and model), 42000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N7392S
Model/Series:	R182	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	R18201709
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 30, 2009 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	93 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7107 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O540
Registered Owner:	BP Pipelines (North America) Inc.	Rated Power:	235 Horsepower
Operator:	BP Pipelines (North America) Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HBG,151 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	28 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	140°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	110°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Light - None - Rain		
Departure Point:	Baton Rouge, LA (BTR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	Jackson, MS (HKS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:55 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Hawkins Field Airport HKS	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	341 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	31.486944,-89.517219

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gretz, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	Albert McCray; FAA/FSDO; Pearl, MS
Original Publish Date:	November 9, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=73867

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