



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Helena, Montana | Accident Number: | WPR09CA443 |
| Date & Time: | September 11, 2009, 08:10 Local | Registration: | N119WW |
| Aircraft: | Cessna 305A | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 2 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

During the landing flare, the pilot misjudged his height above the runway, resulting in a higher-than-normal flare and a harder-than-normal touchdown. Immediately after the airplane made contact with the runway, it began to veer from side to side, and the pilot was unable to maintain directional control. According to the pilot, there were no issues with the rudder or the tailwheel steering systems, but he did feel that the glare from bright sun that he was landing toward had contributed to his abnormal flare height.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper landing flare and recovery from a bounced landing.

Findings

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| Aircraft | Directional control - Not attained/maintained |
| Environmental issues | Bright light - Contributed to outcome |
| Aircraft | Landing flare - Incorrect use/operation |
| Personnel issues | Incorrect action performance - Pilot |
| Personnel issues | Aircraft control - Pilot |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Landing-flare/touchdown | Abnormal runway contact |
| Landing-landing roll | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Certificate: | Commercial | Age: | 73, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land; Single-engine sea | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane | Second Pilot Present: | |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 2 With waivers/limitations | Last FAA Medical Exam: | September 30, 2007 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | April 28, 2009 |
| Flight Time: | 3332 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Cessna | Registration: | N119WW |
| Model/Series: | 305A | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 22481 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | | Engine Manufacturer: | CONT MOTOR |
| ELT: | | Engine Model/Series: | O-470 SERIES |
| Registered Owner: | DAVIS BOB F | Rated Power: | 230 Horsepower |
| Operator: | DAVIS BOB F | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | | Distance from Accident Site: | |
| Observation Time: | | Direction from Accident Site: | |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Helena, MT (KHLN) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | Unknown |
| Destination: | Helena, MT (KHLN) | Type of Clearance: | VFR |
| Departure Time: | 07:30 Local | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Airport: | Helena Regional KHLN | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 09 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 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: | 46.606945,-111.98278 |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Anderson, Orrin |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Bobby Radtke; Helena FSDO; Helena, MT |
| Original Publish Date: | December 15, 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=74728 |

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