



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Spearfish, South Dakota              | <b>Accident Number:</b> | CEN09CA608  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | September 29, 2009, 15:00 Local      | <b>Registration:</b>    | N3260N      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Piper J3C-65                         | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Loss of control on ground            | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

The pilot was practicing landings in a tailwheel-equipped airplane when the accident occurred. He reported that after his third landing he advanced engine power for another takeoff, but lost directional control and the airplane ground looped. The aft fuselage and right elevator were substantially damaged during the ground loop. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation of the airplane.

## 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

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Aircraft</b>         | Directional control - Not attained/maintained |
| <b>Personnel issues</b> | Aircraft control - Pilot                      |

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Takeoff</b> | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
| <b>Takeoff</b> | Abnormal runway contact                    |

### Pilot Information

|                                  |   |  |                 |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 78, Male        |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land  | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Rear            |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None  | <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 3 With waivers/limitations  | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | May 30, 2008    |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | No  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> | August 25, 2009 |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 713 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 503 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |                 |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |  |                                       |                      |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Piper  | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N3260N               |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | J3C-65   | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane             |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |  | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                      |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal   | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 22452                |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tailwheel  | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 2                    |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | August 15, 2009 Annual                                 | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 1220 lbs             |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |  | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating      |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 3629 Hrs as of last inspection                         | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | Teledyne Continental |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | C85-8F               |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | On file  | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 85 Horsepower        |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | On file  | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |   |                  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day              |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | KSPF,3931 ft msl                 | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 0 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 14:55 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        |                  |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear                            | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles         |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                  |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 6 knots /                        | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 45°                              | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 29.76 inches Hg                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 25°C / 7°C       |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Spearfish, SD (KSPF)             | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None             |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | Spearfish, SD (KSPF)             | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None             |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 14:00 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    |                  |

## Airport Information

|                             |                          |                                  |                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | Black Hills Airport KSPF | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Grass/turf                   |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 3931 ft msl              | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry                          |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 04                       | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None                         |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 2023 ft / 150 ft         | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Touch and go;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> | 44.480278,-103.783058(est) |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Fox, Andrew   |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | Barry I Dunmire; Federal Aviation Administration - Rapid City FSDO; Rapid City, SD                    |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | March 3, 2010   |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>               |   |
| <b>Investigation Class:</b>              | <a href="#">Class</a>   |
| <b>Note:</b>                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.   |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | <a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=74809">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=74809</a> |

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