



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Mount Pleasant, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN10CA284
Date & Time:	May 30, 2010, 18:45 Local	Registration:	N88117
Aircraft:	Piper J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Aerodynamic stall/spin	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After takeoff, the pilot noticed the tachometer reading 2,100 RPM and the airspeed was 45-50 miles per hour. He felt the climb performance was less than normal to reach 500 feet above the ground (AGL), where he began a climbing right turn to the crosswind. During the turn he noticed the altitude decreasing, so he tried to recover from the descent. At about 400 feet AGL he felt the airplane sink and start to stall in what he believed was a downdraft. He lowered the nose and started to recover from the stall when the airplane impacted trees. Density altitude was 2,867 feet. No anomalies were found with 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 adequate airspeed while turning resulting in a stall.

Findings

Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	(general) - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	25, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 21, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 125 hours (Total, this make and model), 1200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N88117
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Unknown	Serial Number:	15730
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 1, 2009 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7600 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	A&C65 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	35°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Mount Pleasant, TX (XS70)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mount Pleasant, TX (XS70)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Glover Airport XS70	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	400 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	34	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:	
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.135276,-95.01889(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Baker, Daniel
Additional Participating Persons:	Patrick O'Neil; FAA; Dallas, TX
Original Publish Date:	August 12, 2010
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=76186

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