



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Polson, Montana	Accident Number:	WPR11CA406
Date & Time:	August 21, 2011, 12:30 Local	Registration:	N61609
Aircraft:	Cessna A185F	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot said that, while landing in his tailwheel-equipped airplane, he encountered a gust of wind. He experienced a loss of directional control and the left wing and elevator struck the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and elevator. The pilot stated that the airplane had no mechanical failures or malfunctions during the flight.

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 landing.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 11, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 12, 2011
Flight Time:	4172 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1957 hours (Total, this make and model), 3980 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 88 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N61609
Model/Series:	A185F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18504235
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 6, 2011 Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3165 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	300 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:	GPI,2977 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	6 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Light - None - Smoke		
Departure Point:	Bozeman Airport, MT (BZM)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Poulson, MT (8S1)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Polson Airport 8S1	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	2941 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	4195 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

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:	47.695278,-114.185279(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jones, Patrick
Additional Participating Persons:	John Rasmussen; Federal Aviation Administration; Helena, MT
Original Publish Date:	November 3, 2011
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=81585

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