



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Winter Haven, Florida | Accident Number: | ERA12CA529 |
| Date & Time: | August 23, 2012, 17:55 Local | Registration: | N340C |
| Aircraft: | Stinson 108-2 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

According to the pilot, shortly after applying takeoff power, he allowed the tail of the airplane to lift off the ground "too early," and the airplane veered to the left into the grass. The airplane subsequently impacted the precision approach path indicator lights. The pilot flew the airplane around the airport traffic pattern and landed uneventfully. A postaccident examination revealed that the aft bulkhead was substantially damaged. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

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, which resulted in a runway excursion.

Findings

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| Personnel issues | Aircraft control - Pilot |
| Aircraft | Directional control - Not attained/maintained |
| Environmental issues | Sign/marker - Contributed to outcome |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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| Takeoff | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
| Takeoff | Runway excursion |
| Takeoff | Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) |

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Certificate: | Commercial; Flight instructor | Age: | 49, 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: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | Airplane single-engine | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 2 With waivers/limitations | Last FAA Medical Exam: | November 22, 2011 |
| Occupational Pilot: | Yes | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | August 11, 2011 |
| Flight Time: | 1238 hours (Total, all aircraft), 43 hours (Total, this make and model), 1110 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Stinson | Registration: | N340C |
| Model/Series: | 108-2 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 108-3340 |
| Landing Gear Type: | | Seats: | 4 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | June 26, 2012 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 2300 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 2129 Hrs as of last inspection | Engine Manufacturer: | FRANKLIN |
| ELT: | C91A installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | 6A4150 - B3 |
| Registered Owner: | On file | Rated Power: | 150 Horsepower |
| Operator: | On file | 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: | GIF, 145 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 17:53 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 0° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Few / 6500 ft AGL | Visibility: | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 8 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 360° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.04 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 32°C / 22°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Winter Haven, FL (GIF) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Winter Haven, FL (GIF) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 17:55 Local | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| Airport: | Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport GIF | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 145 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 05 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 5005 ft / 100 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | None |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 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: | 28.062778,-81.753051 |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Etcher, Shawn |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Larry Enlow; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL |
| Original Publish Date: | December 11, 2012 |
| 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=84797 |

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