



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Tilden, Texas Accident Number: WPR14CA009

Date & Time: October 6, 2013, 10:30 Local Registration: N2051N

Aircraft: Beech A36 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control in flight **Injuries:** 1 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot reported that the private airstrip was muddy and soft due to rain showers the night before. During the short field takeoff, the airplane drifted left of centerline and the left main landing gear encountered mud which impeded ground speed. The pilot applied right rudder control to re-center the airplane on the airstrip as the takeoff was continued. After rotation, the pilot kept the airplane in ground effect to build airspeed, however, he was approaching the end of the airstrip and trees. The pilot initiated a steep angle of attack which resulted in the airplane stalling about 60 feet above ground level. The airplane descended, collided with the ground, and cartwheeled before coming to rest. The wings and fuselage were 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 decision to continue the takeoff from a wet and soft airstrip which resulted in his failure to maintain adequate airspeed and aircraft control during the takeoff initial climb.

Findings

Personnel issues Decision making/judgment - Pilot

Aircraft Airspeed - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Environmental issues Wet surface - Not specified
Environmental issues Soft surface - Not specified

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 4, 2011
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 6, 2012
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 740 hours (Total, all aircraft), 460 hours (Total, this make and model), 718 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N2051N
Model/Series:	A36 UNDESIGNAT	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1978	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	E-1409
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2013 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3651 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6249 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental Motors
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-BB15
Registered Owner:	J & J AIRCRAFT LLC	Rated Power:	285 Horsepower
Operator:	J & J AIRCRAFT LLC	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:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tilden, TX (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Pleasanton, TX (PEZ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class E

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Airport Information

Airport:	PRIVATE NONE	Runway Surface Type: Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	400 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition: Soft;Wet
Runway Used:		IFR Approach: None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing: None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	28.466667,-98.583335(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eckrote, Debra	
Additional Participating Persons:	Randolph P Loveless; FAA-FSDO; San Antonio, TX	
Original Publish Date:	December 2, 2013	
Last Revision Date:		
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>	
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=88178	

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available here.

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