



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Luray, Virginia	Accident Number:	ERA14CA412
Date & Time:	August 25, 2014, 19:15 Local	Registration:	N436DC
Aircraft:	Cessna 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Wildlife encounter (non-bird)	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane was attempting to depart from the runway when a deer suddenly began approaching the runway from the left. He attempted to steer the airplane left to avoid the deer as it crossed, and in the process, the airplane departed the left side of the runway. The pilot was unable to stop the airplane as it rolled and struck an embankment and collapsed the main landing gear, resulting in substantial damage to the fuselage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of control and subsequent runway excursion while attempting to avoid a collision with a deer on takeoff.

Findings

Environmental issues	Animal(s)/bird(s) - Response/compensation
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Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Wildlife encounter (non-bird) (Defining event)
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	65
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 12, 2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	7154 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7154 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N436DC
Model/Series:	140	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1956	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	8807
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 31, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1601 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	544 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental Motors
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-200A
Registered Owner:	HEINZ KENNETH P	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	HEINZ KENNETH P	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLUA,903 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	23:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	260°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	80°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Luray, VA (LUA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Luray, VA (LUA)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	LURAY CAVERNS LUA	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	903 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	04	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3125 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	38.666942,-78.500556(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Diaz, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	Davig G Reese; FAA/FSDO; Herndon, VA
Original Publish Date:	October 9, 2014
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=89984

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