



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Alpine, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN14CA512
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 7, 2014, 18:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N2535F
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Champion 7GCAA	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Hard landing	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

During a cross country flight, the weather began to deteriorate. The pilot elected to turn back; however, the weather continued to deteriorate and the pilot elected to perform a forced landing to a dirt road. The pilot stated that it was raining and there was lightening all around. During the forced landing the airplane started to sink and hit the ground hard. The pilot stated that the left main landing gear was bent aft and the left wingtip hit the ground. There were no mechanical anomalies 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 loss of airplane control during a precautionary landing resulting in a hard landing.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	(general) - Decision related to condition
<b>Aircraft</b>	Descent rate - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Hard landing (Defining event)
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### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	44
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Lap only
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	October 15, 2013
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	January 31, 2014
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 3080 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2200 hours (Total, this make and model), 82 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Champion	<b>Registration:</b>	N2535F
<b>Model/Series:</b>	7GCAA NO SERIES	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1965	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	7GCAA-33
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 1, 2014 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1005 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-A2B
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	150 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Instrument (IMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KE38,4514 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>	18:35 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	400 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 400 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	13 knots / 18 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	50°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.21 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	19°C / 18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Odessa, TX (KODO)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Alpine, TX (E38 )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	30.068611,-103.4225(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Rodi, Jennifer
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Gordon D Morris; Federal Aviation Administration; Lubbock, TX
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	November 13, 2014
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90126">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90126</a>

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