



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Effingham, Illinois	Accident Number:	CEN15CA011
Date & Time:	October 11, 2014, 17:44 Local	Registration:	N718CD
Aircraft:	Beech 35-B33	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear not configured	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that 30 minutes after departure at 6,000 feet mean sea level, the airplane's door opened in flight. He stated that the temperature dropped, papers went flying about the cabin, and the noise was 'overwhelming.' The passenger tried to hold the door shut, but could not secured it. The pilot diverted to a nearby airport for landing. The pilot stated that he "simply forgot to put the gear down." The airplane touched down and skidded on its belly resulting in substantial damage to the airplane's stringers, formers, and main spar carry through. The pilot reported that there was no malfunction or system failure of the airplane before the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to lower the landing gear.

Findings

Aircraft	Gear extension and retract sys - Not used/operated
Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Pilot
Aircraft	(general) - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Miscellaneous/other
Landing	Landing gear not configured (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-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):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 20, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	805 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N718CD
Model/Series:	35-B33	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1963	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	CD-718
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 6, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3003 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3630 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	I0-470 SERIES
Registered Owner:	BUSSING ROBERT C	Rated Power:	0 Horsepower
Operator:	BUSSING ROBERT C	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SPI,598 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	62 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	306°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	14°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Evansville, IN (EVV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Springfield, IL (SPI)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Effingham County Memorial 1H2	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	585 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	01	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3400 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Precautionary landing

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:	39.070556,-88.533607(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Silliman, James

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: November 13, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90254>

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