



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Dunkirk, New York	Accident Number:	ERA15LA269
Date & Time:	July 16, 2015, 11:15 Local	Registration:	N6047W
Aircraft:	CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO 162	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Miscellaneous/other	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the light sport airplane had completed two touch-and-go takeoffs and landings in the airport traffic pattern. During the third takeoff, the right door opened at an altitude about 400 ft above ground level. Seated in the left seat, the pilot attempted to reach across the cockpit and close the door, but could not reach the handle. He stated that the airplane "did not want to fly," and "began to sink" before it impacted trees. A witness stated that the airplane was in an "aggressive" nose-up attitude just before impact.

Postaccident examination of the airplane, including the right door latch, revealed no anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. The pilot's operating handbook for the airplane stated that, in the event of a door opening in flight, the pilot should not attempt to close the door and should land normally as soon as practical. It is likely that the pilot became distracted by the open door during flight, and, in his attempt to close the door at low altitude, the airplane became too slow, exceeded its critical angle of attack, and experienced an aerodynamic stall.

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 control of the airplane while attempting to close an open cabin door, which resulted in the airplane exceeding its critical angle of attack and experiencing an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Attention - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
Initial climb	Aerodynamic stall/spin

On July 16, 2015, about 1115 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 162, N6047W, was substantially damaged when it impacted trees and terrain after takeoff from Chautauqua County/Dunkirk Airport (DKK), Dunkirk, New York. The private pilot received minor injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the local personal flight. The airplane was registered to and operated by a private individual under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

A witness located at the airport observed the airplane during its initial climb after takeoff. He stated that, at an altitude about 100-200 feet, the airplane made an "abrupt" left turn, lost altitude, then pitched to a nose-up attitude. He then observed the airplane lose altitude and pitch up a second time, and stated that the airplane was in an "aggressive" nose-up pitch attitude as it sank below the tree line and out of his view.

The pilot reported to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector that he conducted a preflight inspection of the airplane and observed no anomalies. He then conducted two touch-and-go takeoffs and landings in the airport traffic pattern before the accident takeoff. On the third takeoff, during climbout from runway 6, the airplane's right cabin door opened at an altitude about 400 feet. The pilot attempted to reach across the right seat and close the door, but could not reach the handle. He stated that the airplane "did not want to fly" and "began to sink." The airplane subsequently impacted trees and the pilot egressed.

The airplane came to rest upright, in a nose-down attitude among trees about one mile northeast of runway 6 at DKK. Postaccident examination of the airplane by an FAA inspector revealed substantial damage to both left and right wings and the fuselage. The fuel tank sight glasses indicated that each fuel tank was about one-quarter full. Control continuity was established from the cockpit to all flight control surfaces. Impact damage precluded a functional test of the right door latches; however, visual inspection revealed no anomalies.

The pilot held a private pilot certificate with a rating for airplane single engine land. He reported 420 total hours of flight experience, of which 90 hours were in the accident airplane make and model.

The airplane was manufactured in 2011 and was equipped with a Continental Motors Inc., O-200 series, 100 hp reciprocating engine. Its most recent condition inspection was completed December 14, 2014. At the time of the accident, the airplane had accrued 90 total hours of operation.

According to the pilot's operating handbook for the airplane, a pilot should not attempt to close an open cabin door inflight. The written procedure stated that the pilot should leave the door open, reduce

throttle as necessary for an airspeed below 80 knots, secure seatbelts and loose items in the cockpit, and land as soon as practical. Landings with an open door were to be performed normally.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 1, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 21, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 420 hours (Total, all aircraft), 90 hours (Total, this make and model), 300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO	Registration:	N6047W
Model/Series:	162	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2011	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Special light-sport (Special)	Serial Number:	16200180
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 22, 2014 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	69 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	115 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-200
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDKK,693 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	203°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	60°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dunkirk, NY (DKK)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Dunkirk, NY (DKK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E;Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Chautauqua County/Dunkirk DKK	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	692 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	06	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6000 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	42.515834,-79.259162(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Diaz, Allison
Additional Participating Persons:	Garry Mitcham; FAA/FSDO; Rochester, NY
Original Publish Date:	March 23, 2017
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91571

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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](#).