



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Delphi, Indiana	Accident Number:	CEN15CA410
Date & Time:	September 9, 2015, 18:00 Local	Registration:	N4653H
Aircraft:	Piper PA-17	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Ground handling event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot had recently purchased the airplane. It was not equipped with a starter nor did it have a parking brake. Up until this time, the pilot had used someone else to hand prop the engine while he sat at the controls. This was the pilot's first attempt to start the engine by himself. The airplane was not tied down nor chocked. The engine started and the airplane taxied across the tarmac and collided with an airport-owned hangar. There was an intention for flight. The pilot admitted his "lack of experience with this aircraft and [his] overly-high confidence level [was the cause of the] accident."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's attempt to start the engine by himself without properly securing the airplane.

Findings

Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Pilot
Personnel issues	Total experience w/ equipment - Pilot
Aircraft	Cranking - Not installed/available

Factual Information

History of Flight

Standing-engine(s) start-up	Ground handling event (Defining event)
Standing-engine(s) operating	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	21
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	None
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 14, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 50 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4653H
Model/Series:	PA-17	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1948	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17-63
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2015 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	7 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1600 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-145
Registered Owner:	Eric D. Stull	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	Eric D. Stull	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMCX,676 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	18:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Delphi, IN (I19)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Delphi, IN (I19)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	DELPHI MUNICIPAL 119	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	671 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.543056,-86.681388(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Scott, Arnold
Additional Participating Persons:	Lesley Thompson; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Indianapolis, IN
Original Publish Date:	March 14, 2016
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=91969

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