



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	FORT BENTON, Montana	Accident Number:	GAA16CA023
Date & Time:	October 20, 2015, 17:50 Local	Registration:	N76001
Aircraft:	Cessna 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that he landed with a 5 to 8 knot tailwind and landed hard. The pilot lost directional control of the airplane and side loaded the landing gear which caused the left main landing gear to collapse and the left wing impacted the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar.

The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine 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: A hard landing which resulted in a loss of directional control, main landing gear collapse, and damage to the left wing spar.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent rate - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Hard landing (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse
Landing-landing roll	Part(s) separation from AC

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	79, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 14, 2003
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1538 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1538 hours (Total, this make and model), 1538 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N76001
Model/Series:	140	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1946	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	10395
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 22, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1556 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-D
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	125 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:	KGFA,3472 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	23:58 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	228°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	110°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.79 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	FORT BENTON, MT (79S)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	FORT BENTON, MT (79S)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	17:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	FORT BENTON 79S	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	2869 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	23	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	47.846111,-110.634162(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Bigelow, Bradley
Additional Participating Persons:	TROY MESKIMEN; FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION; HELENA, MT
Original Publish Date:	February 8, 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=92210

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