

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Chesterfield, Missouri Accident Number: GAA16CA217

Date & Time: April 9, 2016, 09:30 Local Registration: N4095A

Aircraft: Cessna A185 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control on ground **Injuries:** 3 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot of a tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that during the landing roll in gusty crosswind conditions, the airplane started to veer to the right. The pilot further reported that he applied left rudder and brake, but the airplane ground looped to the right and the left wing struck the runway.

The left wing and left elevator were substantially damaged.

The pilot did not report any mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

An automated weather observing system at the airport, about the time of the accident, reported the wind at 080 degrees true at 7 knots, for the landing on runway 26.

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 directional control during the landing roll, which resulted in a ground loop and a wing strike.

Findings

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Environmental issues Crosswind - Ability to respond/compensate

Environmental issues Gusts - Ability to respond/compensate

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Other weather encounter
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Abnormal runway contact

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69,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:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 8, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 31, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 614 hours (Total, all aircraft), 242 hours (Total, this make and model), 500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4.1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	60,Female
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

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Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	17,Female
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Cessna	Registration:	N4095A
A185 F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
1979	Amateur Built:	
Normal	Serial Number:	18503910
Tailwheel	Seats:	4
October 1, 2015 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
10404.2 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
EARTH ANGEL AVIATORS INC.	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
EARTH ANGEL AVIATORS INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
	A185 F 1979 Normal Tailwheel October 1, 2015 Annual 10404.2 Hrs as of last inspection Installed, not activated EARTH ANGEL AVIATORS INC.	A185 F Aircraft Category: 1979 Amateur Built: Normal Serial Number: Tailwheel Seats: October 1, 2015 Annual Certified Max Gross Wt.: Engines: 10404.2 Hrs as of last inspection Installed, not activated Engine Manufacturer: EARTH ANGEL AVIATORS INC. Rated Power: EARTH ANGEL AVIATORS INC. Operating Certificate(s)

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSUS,465 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	80°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	3°C / -8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Chesterfield, MO (SUS)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Chesterfield, MO (SUS)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	09:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	SPIRIT OF ST LOUIS SUS	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	463 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	26L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7485 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.659999,-90.64611(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	Norman Loftsgard; FAA; St. Louis, MO
Original Publish Date:	June 15, 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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=93106

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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.

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