



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Markleeville, California	Accident Number:	GAA17CA118
Date & Time:	January 17, 2017, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N5623C
Aircraft:	Cessna 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot in the tailwheel-equipped airplane, during a low pass to evaluate the snow-covered runway, the airplane descended to 4 ft above ground level. The airplane encountered a crosswind from the left, and the pilot accomplished a "slip to remain over the runway." However, the airplane descended, and the left main landing gear struck a snow berm and the airplane struck the runway and nosed over. Substantial damage was sustained to both wings, the rudder, and the horizontal stabilizer.

The pilot asserted that he should have practiced what he teaches his students and stayed 300 ft above airports when performing a fly-over.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane 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:

The pilot's failure to maintain altitude during a low pass and the subsequent impact with a snow berm, which resulted in a nosed-over.

Findings

Aircraft	Altitude - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Snow/ice - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Other weather encounter
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight instructor	Age:	76, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 1, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 29, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 4088 hours (Total, all aircraft), 38 hours (Total, this make and model), 4088 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N5623C
Model/Series:	140 A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1950	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	15556
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 20, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1451 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1076 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	C90
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	90 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:	TVL,6314 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	21:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	313°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.1 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	4°C / -1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MINDEN, NV (MEV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CARSON CITY, NV (CXP)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ALPINE COUNTY M45	Runway Surface Type:	Snow
Airport Elevation:	5871 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5857 ft / 30 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Go around;Traffic pattern

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:	38.716945,-119.745002(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Donald Morgan; FAA; Reno, NV
Original Publish Date:	July 20, 2017
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=94629

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