



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Clovis, New Mexico	Accident Number:	GAA17CA313
Date & Time:	May 31, 2017, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N185FF
Aircraft:	Cessna A185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while landing in gusting crosswind conditions, as the tailwheel contacted the runway, the airplane "violently yawed" to the left. He added that he immediately applied full left aileron and full right rudder control inputs; however, the airplane ground looped to the left, and the right wing contacted the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing, right horizontal stabilizer, and elevator.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The automated weather observation system on the airport reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 150° at 11 knots, gusting to 14 knots. The pilot landed on runway 22.

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 in gusting crosswind conditions.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other
Landing	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	38, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 21, 2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 28, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 619 hours (Total, all aircraft), 377 hours (Total, this make and model), 534 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 117 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 42 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N185FF
Model/Series:	A185 F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1978	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18503665
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 1, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3485.7 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520D
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	300 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:	KCVN,4216 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	334°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots / 14 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.14 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	PORTALES, NM (PRZ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Clovis, NM (CVN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CLOVIS MUNI CVN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4215 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	22	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7200 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;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:	34.426944,-103.079444(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Andy Smith; FAA; Lubbock, TX
Original Publish Date:	August 3, 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=95277

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