



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Belmar, New Jersey | Accident Number: | GAA17CA339 |
| Date & Time: | June 11, 2017, 12:30 Local | Registration: | N71MH |
| Aircraft: | Cessna 180 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during the landing and as the left main landing gear (MLG) touched down, the airplane encountered a wind gust and then veered "abruptly" left. He added that, as the right MLG touched down, the airplane "began skidding to the left," and the right MLG collapsed. Subsequently, the airplane came to rest on the left side of the runway and nosed down.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing.

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 at the airport reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 260° at 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 32.

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 while landing in gusting wind conditions.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

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| Landing | Other weather encounter |
| Landing | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
| Landing | Landing gear collapse |
| Landing | Nose over/nose down |

Pilot Information

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|----------------------------------|---|--|------------------|
| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 50, 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: | January 14, 2016 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | June 10, 2016 |
| Flight Time: | (Estimated) 1132 hours (Total, all aircraft), 681 hours (Total, this make and model), 1071 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 48 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Cessna | Registration: | N71MH |
| Model/Series: | 180 K | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1977 | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 18052965 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tailwheel | Seats: | 4 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | April 18, 2017 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 2800 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 5722.5 Hrs as of last inspection | Engine Manufacturer: | CONT MOTOR |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | IO-550-D |
| Registered Owner: | On file | Rated Power: | 300 Horsepower |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | BLM,164 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 16:56 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 117° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 10 knots / 15 knots | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / None |
| Wind Direction: | 260° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / N/A |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.07 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 32°C / 16°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Belmar, NJ (BLM) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Belmar, NJ (BLM) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 12:00 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Airport: | MONMOUTH EXECUTIVE BLM | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 153 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 32 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 7371 ft / 85 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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: | 40.185001,-74.122222(est) |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Swenson, Eric |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Joseph Martuge; FAA; Teterboro, NJ |
| Original Publish Date: | April 8, 2019 |
| 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=95369 |

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