



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Healdsburg, California	Accident Number:	GAA18CA455
Date & Time:	July 26, 2018, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N1902V
Aircraft:	Cessna 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Nose over/nose down	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot in the tailwheel-equipped airplane, he had performed two previous touch-and-go takeoffs and landings. During the third landing roll, the tailwheel settled on the runway, and then the airplane nosed over. He reported that he was “not certain whether I accidentally stepped on the brakes or the brakes seized.”

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the vertical stabilizer and the rudder.

A Federal Aviation Administration inspector’s postaccident examination of the brake system revealed no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 improper brake application during the landing roll, which resulted in a nose-over.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Brake - Incorrect use/operation
Aircraft	Surface speed/braking - Incorrect use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Abnormal runway contact
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	70, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
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:	March 28, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 10, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 4800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4 hours (Total, this make and model), 4800 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N1902V
Model/Series:	140 Undesignat	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1947	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	14093
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4333.5 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C85
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	104 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:	KSTS,114 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	155°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	9 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.98 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Moderate - None - Smoke		
Departure Point:	Healdsburg, CA (HES)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Healdsburg, CA (HES)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Healdsburg Muni HES	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	280 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	13	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2652 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Stop and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.652778,-122.898612(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	David T Jensen; FAA; Oakland, CA
Original Publish Date:	June 5, 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=97954

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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](#).