



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Mt. Sterling, Kentucky	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA19CA472
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 28, 2019, 15:45 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9548W
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 172	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that he left the windows open while completing the Start-up checklist and while taxiing to the runway. During the takeoff roll, he noticed that the passenger window was unsecured. While attempting to secure the window, he momentarily took his eyes off the runway. As he looked back at the runway, the airplane was traveling to the left side of the runway. With insufficient runway to correct direction, the airplane impacted a runway distance marker sign. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the 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.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's loss of directional control during the takeoff roll due to distraction by the passenger window being unsecured, which resulted in a runway excursion and impact with a runway distance marker. Contributing to the accident was pilot's failure to ensure that the passenger window was secured.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Attention - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Sign/marker - Effect on operation
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Lack of action - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
<b>Takeoff</b>	Runway excursion
<b>Takeoff</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
<b>Prior to flight</b>	Miscellaneous/other

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	71, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Unknown
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 1, 2018
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 444 hours (Total, all aircraft), 189 hours (Total, this make and model), 2.7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N9548W
<b>Model/Series:</b>	172 R	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1999	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	17280512
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2299 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	I0360
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ZH Aviation LLC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	ZH Aviation LLC	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KIOB, 1021 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	1 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	19:35 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	343°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	8 knots / None	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	240°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.19 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	31°C / 18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Mt. Sterling, KY (IOB )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Mt. Sterling, KY (IOB )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Mount Sterling-Montgomery Coun IOB	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	1019 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	21	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5000 ft / 75 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.058055,-83.979446(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Nepomuceno, Eleazar
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Ronald Killingsworth ; FAA; Louisville, KY
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	June 16, 2020
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99975">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99975</a>

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