



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	New Bern, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA19TA166
Date & Time:	April 30, 2019, 19:25 Local	Registration:	N733UF
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

During the student pilot's first solo flight, the airplane veered left after touchdown on the runway. He attempted to correct with right rudder and left aileron; however, the airplane traveled into the grass off the left side of the runway and struck a ditch before coming to rest upright. The airplane sustained damage to the right horizontal stabilizer, engine mount, and firewall. The student reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The student pilot's failure to maintain directional control during landing, which resulted in a runway excursion.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student/instructed pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Runway excursion
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On April 30, 2019, about 1925 eastern daylight time, a Cessna 172N, N733UF, was substantially damaged while landing at Coastal Carolina Regional Airport (EWN), New Bern, North Carolina. The student pilot incurred minor injuries. The local solo instructional flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the flight that departed EWN about 1920.

The student pilot reported that during his first solo flight, the airplane veered left after touchdown on runway 22. He attempted to correct with right rudder and left aileron; however, the airplane travelled into the grass off the left side of the runway and struck a ditch, before coming to rest upright. The student pilot added that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the airplane.

Examination of the airplane by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed damage to the right horizontal stabilizer, engine mount, and firewall.

The recorded weather at EWN, at 1925, included wind from 190° at 5 knots, visibility 10 miles and sky clear.

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	25, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	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 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 27, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	47 hours (Total, all aircraft), 47 hours (Total, this make and model), 0 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N733UF
Model/Series:	172 N	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1977	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17268553
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 2, 2019 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	86 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	14998 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot school (141)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EWN, 18 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:25 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.23 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	New Bern, NC (EWN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	New Bern, NC (EWN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:20 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Coastal Carolina Regional EWN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	18 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	22	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6453 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	35.072776,-77.043052(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gretz, Robert	
Additional Participating Persons:	Timothy Hahn; FAA/FSDO; Greensboro, NC	
Original Publish Date:	December 3, 2020	Investigation Class: 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99390	

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).