

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: DePere, Wisconsin **Accident Number:** GAA18CA490

Date & Time: August 14, 2018, 17:50 Local Registration: N1085U

Aircraft: Cessna 172 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control in flight **Injuries:** 1 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during landing, the airplane touched down and suddenly "pitched and lifted to the right." He added power to go around, but the airplane climbed and "turned way more to the left." The airplane impacted trees, spun, and dropped onto terrain.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

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 failure to maintain lateral control and his subsequent failure to maintain the runway heading during an attempted go-around, which resulted in impact with trees.

Findings

Aircraft Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained

Aircraft Heading/course - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Environmental issues Tree(s) - Effect on operation

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR go-around	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)	
Approach-VFR go-around	Attempted remediation/recovery	
Approach-VFR go-around	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	October 24, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 27, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 199.8 hours (Total, all aircraft), 185.5 hours (Total, this make and model), 13.1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13.1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6.3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N1085U
Model/Series:	172 M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1976	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17266834
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 14, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	8001 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	0-320-E2D
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KGRB,702 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	22:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	336°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.9 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Green Bay, WI (GRB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	DePere, WI (WS43)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	17:34 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BIRCH CREEK WS43	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	813 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	26	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2800 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Go around

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	44.355834,-88.059722(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Benhoff, Kathryn

Additional Participating Persons: Michael Pieczynski; FAA; Milwaukee, WI

Original Publish Date: March 18, 2019

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to

the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98074

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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.

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