



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Burlington, Vermont	Accident Number:	GAA18CA547
Date & Time:	August 20, 2018, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N557SP
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The solo student pilot reported that, during approach, he was struggling to keep the airspeed at 60 to 70 knots, so he entered a side slip and reduced the power to idle. Once assured the airplane would reach the runway, he aligned the airplane with the runway. The airplane landed on the left main landing gear, bounced, and the student performed a go-around. He entered the left traffic pattern and landed without further incident.

Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed substantial damage to the firewall and fuselage.

The student reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The automated weather observation station located on the airport reported that, about 6 minutes before the accident, the wind was from 270° at 6 knots. The airplane landed on runway 33.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The student pilot's improper landing flare, which resulted in a bounced landing.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach	Miscellaneous/other
Landing	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	54,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 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 9, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 57.4 hours (Total, all aircraft), 16 hours (Total, this make and model), 7.3 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18.7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3.7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N557SP
Model/Series:	172 S	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1998	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	172S8043
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 16, 2018 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2299 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	8580.8 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-L2A
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	180 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:	KBTW,340 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	18:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	156°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 5500 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Burlington, VT (BTV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Burlington, VT (BTV)	Type of Clearance:	VFR;VFR flight following
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class C

Airport Information

Airport:	BURLINGTON INTL BTV	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt;Concrete
Airport Elevation:	334 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	33	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	8319 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Go around

Wreckage and Impact Information

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:	44.472499,-73.152778(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	John Bell; FAA; Portland, ME
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.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98280

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](#).