



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Bally, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	GAA17CA154
Date & Time:	February 19, 2017, 14:45 Local	Registration:	N123GT
Aircraft:	Cessna 180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during takeoff, the airplane encountered a wind gust and veered to the left. He corrected with right rudder and left aileron, and the airplane veered to the right. Subsequently, the airplane exited the runway to the right, the left main landing gear sheared off, and the airplane impacted two trees.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, empennage, and left wing.

The pilot reported there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation.

A review of local weather at the airfield about the time of the accident showed the wind was 300° at 10 knots. The pilot was departing on runway 34.

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 directional control during takeoff in crosswind conditions.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Crosswind correction - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Attempted remediation/recovery
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	72,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	June 18, 2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 14, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2792 hours (Total, all aircraft), 843 hours (Total, this make and model), 2540 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Female
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Passenger Information

Certificate:	Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot: UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:		

Passenger Information

Certificate:	Age:	Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot: UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N123GT
Model/Series:	180 H	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1966	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18051689
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 19, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2673.94 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-R
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	230 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:	KPTW,500 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	300°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.86 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bally, PA (7N8)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	14:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BUTTER VALLEY GOLF PORT 7N8	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	500 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2420 ft / 85 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.396945,-75.562774(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Thomas Gilbert; FAA; Pittsburgh, PA
Original Publish Date:	April 10, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=94767

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